

**REPRESENTATIONS FROM  
NETWORK RAIL**

**Southbourne Parish Council**  
The Village Hall  
First Avenue, Southbourne  
Emsworth PO10 8HN

**Elliot Stamp**  
Town Planning Technician  
1 Eversholt Street  
London, NW1 2DN  
E [Elliot.Stamp@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:Elliot.Stamp@networkrail.co.uk)

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**Network Rail Consultation – Southbourne Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2029 - Pre Submission Plan**

Dear Sir / Madam,

Thank you very much for consulting with Network Rail in regards to the proposed Southbourne Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2029 - Pre Submission Plan.

Five surface level railway crossings are located within the local area. Two level crossings are located on Stein Road and Inlands Road. The remaining pedestrian crossings are located in the vicinity of Penny Lane, the western side of Southbourne (east of Tuppenny Lane, known as Church) and towards Hambrook.

The safety of the operational railway and of those crossing it is of the highest importance to Network Rail and railway crossings are of a particular interest in relation to safety.

As a result, to fully assess the potential impact on the usage and operation of the crossings from future developments, Network Rail recommends that applicants and developers contact Network Rail at an early stage of their projects.

Network Rail is encouraged by the awareness and understanding of railway crossing related issues shown within the Southbourne Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2029 - Pre Submission Plan, in particular, Policy 2 - Housing Site Allocations and Policy 9 – Transport.

**Policy 2 - Housing Site Allocations:**

Network Rail understands that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to allocate sites for future residential developments. The increase in housing and population is likely to lead to an increase in usage of the crossings located in the area.

Network Rail recognises that Policy 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan, which relates to the allocated sites at; Land at Loveders Mobile Home Park, Land North of Alfrey Close and Land at Gosden Green, seeks to help address the potential increase of use of the crossings created by future development, in particular the following development principle;

***'c. makes a planning obligation to make a financial contribution to the cost of implementing the pedestrian footbridge over the railway.'***

Network Rail acknowledges the development principle (d) associated to the site on Land at Loveders Mobile Home Park, and would welcome further discussion on the proposed new footpath to Southbourne railway station.

General information relating to developing land adjacent to the railway can be accessed via the following link; [www.networkrail.co.uk/asp/1538.aspx](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/asp/1538.aspx).

#### **Policy 9 – Transport:**

Policy 9 of the Neighbourhood Plan expresses the plan's long term vision for an ***'elevated vehicle crossing of the railway line to the west of Southbourne in order to reduce congestion at existing railway crossings and to improve pedestrian safety'*** and ***'to provide links over the railway line to complete access to the Green ring and to improve pedestrian safety.'***

Network Rail acknowledges this vision and is aware that it has the potential to increase railway safety and could lead to the closure of railway crossings. Again Network Rail would be open to further discussion on this potential opportunity.

Network Rail would like to take this opportunity to highlight some concerns relating to narrow nature of Inlands Road and the impact that this has on the near by level crossing. The narrow nature of the road means that an increase in traffic on the road would subsequently increase the likelihood of a 'blocking back' situation occurring.

Due to the narrow nature of Inlands Road, southbound traffic can become blocked leading to the creation of queues. As a result vehicles may become stuck across the level crossing causing safety issues. Network Rail would be interested in seeing if any plans or measures could be introduced to improve this situation.

Please let me know if you have any questions relating to this letter.

Thank you

Kind regards

**Elliot Stamp**  
Town Planning Technician