



Mark Berry
c/o JSA Planning

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9th August 2021

Dear Mark

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed road bridge at Thatcham as part of the Colthrop Village proposals.

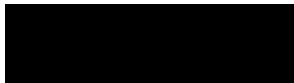
We would be supportive of a scheme that includes the provision of a bridge over the railway that would lead to the closure of the level crossing at Thatcham station. Closing level crossings is rightly a priority for both central government and Network Rail, as doing so is safer for passengers, road users, pedestrians and railway colleagues.

Additionally, the closure of level crossings can provide environmental benefits with fewer idling cars, and reducing the numbers of drivers who choose to take longer routes to avoid level crossings such as the one in place at Thatcham. This can also provide a performance benefit to railway, with disruption relating to the operation of the level crossing eradicated upon its removal.

It will be important that any footbridge installed, should the level crossing be closed, includes the provision of lifts. The current level crossing at Thatcham provides level access to both platforms of the station, and it is imperative that this access is retained in any future development.

I trust this helps and thank you again for your email.

Yours sincerely



Mark Hopwood CBE
Managing Director