



Ashtead Independents

Keep national party politics out of local government

Green Lane Crossing – Petition

15th April 2016 by admin

Surrey County Council says:

Your petition has been approved, and is now available on the website at the following address:

<http://petitions.surreycc.gov.uk/GreenLane/>

Your petition reads:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to support the retention and improvement of the railway line crossing between Green Lane and Links Road, Ashtead.

The Green Lane footpath crossing over the railway line has been in use consistently and openly as a public path since the advent of the railway in 1856 and Network Rail's own website describes this crossing as a 'Public Footpath Crossing'.

Surrey County Council's own Definitive Map shows this crossing as a Public Footpath. This crossing is used by an average of over 230 people a day, in excess of 1600 per week, amounting to over 80,000 crossings every year, figures which indicate the importance of this crossing to local residents. There has not been a serious accident here since 1967, a remarkable fact given the frequency of trains and that in the intervening 50 years, millions of pedestrians have responsibly and safely traversed the track. Given the extraordinarily high level of pedestrian usage and the unusual geographical predicament of the 'landlocked' residents to the north of the crossing who are isolated by the railway tracks, this public footpath crossing is a vital link for cyclists and pedestrians to local shops, schools, and bus routes, while many residents south of the crossing use it to access the common for recreation.

Please sign it folks (I'll be checking!) and spread the word.

I should point out that the rules say one signature per email address.

Paula



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John Northcott

3rd April 2016 by admin

Visitors to this site will almost certainly have seen the many fulsome eulogies, in the local press and on the Ashtead Residents Association website, to John who sadly died on 16 March having resigned from the Council only a few days previously due to his deteriorating health. The Ashtead Independent Councillors would like to add the following brief tribute.

John had had an exceptionally good grounding in the ways of local government, having been on the Ashtead Residents' Standing Committee for many, many years before he stood as an Ashtead Independent for the Common Ward in 2000. He had a prestigious appetite for "reading the paperwork" and you knew that we would always be fully briefed on the topic in hand. What he didn't know about Planning wasn't worth knowing and the fellow Councillors and Council Officers listened carefully when John spoke about Planning matters. He was extremely well respected at Pippbrook by his fellow Councillors & Officers; so much so know that, on learning of his death, the flag at the Council Offices was lowered to half-mast and as his funeral began, there was a minutes silence at Pippbrook – a mark of respect from those there and a mark of the man.

John also "took on" Thames Water when there was a spate of flooding in his Ward; unsurprisingly, John prevailed and the matter was dealt with. He also took a very keen interest in the Level Crossing, a feature of his Ward, and was frequently seen visiting the overnight works in the early hours of the morning, making sure he knew what was happening, in case he wanted to revert to Network Rail.

It may seem from the above that John was "all work and no play" but that would be very far from the truth: he had many other interests and enjoyed a good laugh, often at his own expense.

He was a lovely man, who will be sorely missed by his fellow Ashtead Independents, and Councillors of other hues, along with many in Ashtead.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gill, his wife, and his children, Richard and Clare, and the wider family.