

Train Horn Nuisance & Use of Level Crossing

Overly loud train horn noise at the station was raised as an issue in the Shiplake Villages Plan of 2014 and the recent Neighbourhood Plan survey responses. As the noise levels have worsened, a group of residents has discussed the matter with GWR over a lengthy period and more recently with Network Rail(NR). Both have acknowledged the issue and are working to mitigate it. Like all regulated health & safety issues, however, there are procedures to follow and ultimately require the Sec. of State's office to approve any changes.

The outcome, hopefully, will be the elimination of the horn at the level crossing on Station Road and one of the footpath crossings between Wargrave and Shiplake stations. The procedural request for this is being reviewed currently. This would be a significant improvement but is not certain AND **will be influenced by pedestrian use of the level crossing which IS being monitored**. For everyone's safety - train passengers and drivers, pedestrians and motorists **DO NOT, whatever rush you may be in, feel it appropriate or clever to go under or around the barriers when the red lights are flashing and the barriers lowering or in the down position** - see photos on the home page; it was pointed out by a GWR senior manager, on a recent visit, that a mature gentleman with a brown dog did go around the barriers, endangering himself and others. Such actions do not help eliminating this nuisance and should anybody see anyone misusing the crossing this way, please ask them not to do so. Advise the council via feedback@www.shipakevillages.com with the date and the time of the incident.

Many thanks for your help and cooperation in ensuring we get the reductions in noise levels that many residents seek.