

# **Level Crossings – why do accidents happen?**

Tina Hughes

# Charlie and Olivia



Elsenham, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2005

# What happened at Elsenham?



**“The two girls did not react to the red miniature warning light and yodel alarm, which visually and audibly indicated that it was not safe to open the wicket gate and use the station footpath crossing.”**

*RSSB accident report June 2006*

- **the girls' focus of attention on a train to Cambridge and the failure to perceive the risk from trains in the opposite direction.**
- **an erroneous belief that the audible alarm related only to the train that was passing ahead of them.**

*RAIB - Rail Accident Report Dec 2006*

# After Elsenham

- TV and radio advertising

**Don't take the risk**

# **A new approach**

- Wider use of new media – viral campaigns using Twitter, Youtube etc to reach younger audiences

# Network Rail's latest TV ad

- Distraction
- A move towards other types of crossing – not just road crossings with barriers



- Stop reacting to incidents with “it’s a safe crossing if it’s used correctly”
- Do not immediately assume abuse.
- Not everyone who is killed was deliberately taking a risk
- Prioritise safety activity where risk is highest – including human factors

Please do what  
you can to  
improve safety  
on all  
level crossings

Thank you

