

Connie Frost-Bryant  
Head of Strategic Growth  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House  
Monks Walk  
Chicksands  
Shefford  
SG17 5TQ

Colin Murphy  
Head of Consenting  
Network Rail  
One Victoria Square  
Birmingham  
B1 1BD

18 March 2019

*By post & e-mail*

**Ref: OBJ/242**

Dear Mrs Frost-Bryant,

I write in response to Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) letter of 5 February 2019, and subsequent appearance at the public inquiry into the making of the Network Rail (East West Rail Bedford to Bicester Improvements) Order on 27 February 2019.


I confirm that Network Rail is considering the feasibility of providing a stepped footbridge at Lidlington School Crossing where the existing at grade crossing will be closed under the Order, subject to completion of the following parallel work streams:

- Confirmation from Network Rail's Equalities Act Advisory Board that a stepped footbridge complies with Network Rail's Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act;
- Confirmation that the land required for construction of a stepped footpath can be acquired through negotiation subject to agreement being reached on acceptable terms; and
- Confirmation of a successful application for planning permission for the stepped footbridge.

Network Rail is working towards achieving greater certainty in these areas. Until it has achieved this, it is unable to offer a firm commitment to the construction of a footbridge. Network Rail will continue to update Central Bedfordshire Council on the progress of the above work streams.

Further to which, Central Bedfordshire Council is asked to note that Network Rail does not accept that highway safety concerns for pedestrians using the existing Lidlington Station Road Crossing, following closure of Lidlington School Crossing, are in any way comparable to those expressed by Woburn Sands Town Council in relation to pedestrians using Woburn Sands Newport Road/Cranfield Road, following closure of Woburn Sands School Crossing. In relation to Lidlington.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Murphy  
Head of Consenting & Environment  
IP Central [East West Rail]

For and on behalf of Network Rail Limited

Cc Councillor Sue Clarke

Peter Sparkes