

**From:** Richard Townend < >  
**Sent:** 04 September 2018 14:45  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Network Rail East West Rail TWA Order

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Secretary of State for Transport,

Please accept this correspondence by way of objection to the application for an order to be made under the Transport and Works Act 1992 by Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd in relation to East West Rail, Bicester to Bedford Improvements.

My main objections are such:

- The pedestrian crossing between Cranfield Road and the recreation ground is heavily utilised by pedestrians as this is the main route to a lower and middle school, local shops, GP surgery and other community facilities. Network Rail intend to close the pedestrian crossing proposing local residents including many groups of young children, cross a main road without any crossing facilities, no pavement to one side of the road and next to moving traffic. Initially Network Rails scope of works included a footbridge which has subsequently been scrapped presumably on cost grounds.
- No long term provision appears to have been included to allow residents to cross the railway in a safe manner.
- Without an adequately safe footway connection the plans as they are cut the community of Woburn Sands in half contradicting the Government's Vision for integrated communities as outlined in the March 2018 Integrated Communities Strategy Green paper - "Well integrated communities are not just more harmonious places to live but because the economic and social benefits...are enormous". (Pg. 10) Cutting one side of a community from the other removes all of the economic and social benefits this rail upgrade is being sold on.
- The plans are unclear on the long term viability of the level crossing on Newport Road/Station Road and this raises concerns of permanent closure to either the footway or road crossing that will segregate the community entirely.
- If no permanent foot crossing is provided it will also have an environmental impact with many families forced to drive 10+ miles to drop children to the local school. The majority currently walk using the existing footpath crossing that is to be closed.
- Information regarding the change of scope was released 3 days after local schools closed and the objection period ends 2 days after the school term commences, meaning that the amount of 'passers by' to witness/review the information is greatly diminished as were the chance of objection.

Mr Richard Townend

Woburn Sands

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