

From: Alastair Mayman < >
Sent: 06 September 2018 20:31
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Network Rail East West Rail TWA Order
Attachments: East West Rail 19-2-18.docx

Secretary of State for Transport,

I wish to object 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 near to Woburn Sands to close the crossing between Cranfield Road and the Recreation Ground, Woburn Sands.

I had previously written a letter (attached) to the East-West consortium in February 2018. I received a reply that in summary said the planned crossing was withdrawn to reduce the cost of the East-West Rail project as required by the Department of Transport.

I still maintain that the originally planned footbridge crossing should be retained because:

1. 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 and health facilities. A footbridge is an ideal solution to provide a safe crossing over the railway, available at all times, instead of requiring school children and others to take a detour to cross a main road adjacent to the main level crossing and without pedestrian crossing facilities.

2. The consultation and measurements for the East-West rail link have been given a low profile. Information regarding the change of scope was released 3 days after local schools closed and our objection period ends 2 days after the school term commences, meaning that the amount of 'passers-by' to witness/review the information was greatly diminished as were the chance of objection. I have a similar comment (made in my original letter) that measurements of usage were taken in winter at probably the time of minimum use in February to potentially "evidence" low usage. Summer time is much busier with events on the Recreation ground, social walking and children much more likely to walk to school.

I urge that original plan for a footbridge between Cranfield Road and the Recreation Ground, Woburn Sands is reinstated on safety grounds and to provide a better amenity for local residents.

A. Mayman

Woburn Sands



Woburn Sands

19 February 2018

East West Rail Consultation

Rail crossing at corner of the Recreation Ground, East of Woburn Sands Station

Currently there is a crossing point from Cranfield Road to the Recreation Ground across the railway where Cranfield Road turns & runs parallel to the rail line before reaching Newport Road.

As part of the proposed Electrification of the East West Rail link, there were plans to replace this simple crossing with a footbridge. Now I believe, the proposal has been withdrawn because it is an easy detour for residents to use the level crossing instead. As a local resident who uses the crossing regularly to walk to Woburn Sands Shops, Chip shop and Aspley Guise golf course, I do not regard this as an easy detour and not having the crossing in its current location will be a large inconvenience. I therefore urge that the Footbridge at the existing crossing point is reinstated. This crossing point is long established, I have local maps showing the footpath in existence well before Milton Keynes was first thought of and I suspect that the path itself forms part of the original Cranfield to Woburn Sands Road before the railway line existed. I also believe that a footbridge is a safer way of crossing the railway than at the station level crossing alongside road traffic. A further consideration is that a footbridge is available at all times, whereas the level crossing is closed when trains are due to pass through.

I have noted that there has been monitoring of the crossing in the last week or so. I would like to point out that usage will appear less than usual because of the recent poor weather and also the time of year. Usage is much higher in the summer, particularly when events are held on the Recreation ground.

Please consider that a footbridge over the railway should be provided to replace the current foot crossing. Maintaining a simple walking route into Woburn Sands will make a big difference to myself, other residents in the _____ area and potentially even more people if housing developments take place.

Yours sincerely,

A. Mayman