

**From:** Samantha Shippen <Samantha.Shippen@bicester.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 07 September 2018 11:44  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Proposed Network Rail (East West Rail Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order

Dear sirs

I am requested to write to you on behalf of Bicester Town Council regarding a number of issues which concern the Council regarding this order.

1. Because of the geographical area covered by the Order, there is no provision in the order to deal with the resulting adverse effect immediately up the track to the west which will inevitably be suffered in the town from the significantly increased down time of the level crossing on London Road. This will leave the town of Bicester cut in two for almost half of each hour between 6am and 8pm. Whilst the Town Council accepts that there is no easy or cheap solution there should be a strategic effort in place to deal with the situation as soon as possible and we call upon the Department for Transport to examine the effects urgently.
2. We understand that electrification of the line was withdrawn from the project plan 18 months ago on the basis of cost. This is in direct opposition to the DeFRA Undertaking to ensure the removal of diesel trains by 2040. The Town Council seeks a commitment from the government that to meet the DeFRA Undertaking.
3. As a direct effect of the Order, there are footpath closures in the area of Field Farm, Launton, Bicester which will prevent walkers crossing the line in three separate places. The Town Council would like consideration to be given to at least one footbridge in this area between Bicester and Launton to allow local walkers to cross the railway line.
4. A number of trees were planted in the last year at Field farm which have subsequently died due to lack of care. The Town Council seeks replacement of the trees at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards

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