

Response from East West Rail Consultation 27 February 2018

Dear Ms Olds,

We note the comments you submitted on behalf of Launton Parish Council on the Round Three Consultation regarding the East West Rail Western Section Phase 2 (EWR2) project for which I acknowledge receipt.

I apologise for not replying earlier but I have had to wait for comments back from the EWR Alliance team to respond on the points you have raised.

Stratton Audley route for LGVs and cars

Due to the rural nature of the area the EWR Alliance is having to use the existing highway network to deliver this scheme and we do understand that there will be inconvenience to local people caused by traffic to access the railway during the construction phase. We will seek to minimise disruption for local residents as much as possible during the construction phase. Whichever route we chose there would, inevitably, be a measure of disturbance to local people, however, as stated we shall be taking measures to curtail the inconvenience by taking reasonable measures.

I can confirm that the current HGV routing currently shown through Stratton Audley was initially assessed on the basis of available electronic survey data of the highway from the Ordnance Survey. Following this initial assessment we have undertaken on-site exercises to understand its suitability and subsequently we have removed this access route for HGVs to access the A2 Compound. The new proposed HGV route will be therefore re-routed via and into the A1 Bicester compound and along a short section of online access along the existing track bed to the A2 Compound at Launton.

Our proposal to route LGVs and personnel working at this compound still remains, ie through Stratton Audley. All construction phase mitigation measures will be undertaken under construction traffic management plans through the Code of Construction Practice. Should the application for the Transport and Works Act Order be successful, the Local Planning Authority will place a pre-commencement condition relating to the agreement of the traffic management plan.

HGV traffic through Launton village

We have agreed not to go through Launton village with HGV construction traffic however Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) and cars of the workforce accessing site will go through the village to access the compound at Station Road (A2).

Land owned and managed by Launton Playing Fields Association

I can confirm that the land in the ownership of Launton Playing Fields Association is not required to facilitate the works for EWR2. Our current plans are to build a new accommodation bridge (at Manor Farm Launton) which will affect the access road leading

from Bicester Road to the club. We will work with the Association, the Sports and Social Club and the parish council to ensure we maintain access for patrons and any emergency vehicles. We will get in touch if this proposal changes (ie to build the bridge) – if this is the case the access will remain untouched by the project.

Vehicle identifiers

We expect a high standard of vehicle and driver behaviour and obeying the speed limit is a legal requirement for all road users. I can tell you that HGVs will be briefed to use the agreed routes and that all construction phase mitigation measures will be undertaken under construction traffic management plans through the Code of Construction Practice. Should the application for the Transport and Works Act Order be successful, the agreement of the traffic management plan will be approved by the Local Planning Authority in conjunction with the Local Highways Authority.

We will record all registrations of vehicles delivering to the project so if any concerns are raised about a particular vehicle we will be able to gauge if it is indeed an EWR2 vehicle and take appropriate action.

We will be making our Transport and Works Act (TWA) Order application during the Spring of 2018 and we hope that we will gain powers within 18 months of our application date. If during the TWA process an inspector is appointed (which is highly likely) there will be an opportunity for the parish council to make direct representations to the TWA Unit if there are any issues created by our proposals to which the council disagrees.

Regards
Sophie