

LAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Jane Olds, Parish Clerk

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Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport and Works Act Orders Unit
General Counsel's Office
Department for Transport
Zone 1/14 - 1/18
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

7 September 2019

Dear Sirs,

Ref: Response to East West Rail Transport and Works Act Order to authorise construction, operation and maintenance of the railway between Bicester, Bedford and Aylesbury, known as East West Rail Phase 2

Launton Parish Council met on Thursday 6 September and considered the Transport and Works Act Order to authorise construction, operation and maintenance of the railway between Bicester, Bedford and Aylesbury, known as East West Rail Phase 2 at the meeting.

The Council had the following concerns:

1. The access required up the narrow lane between the Parish Hall and the School for the construction of the replacement bridge for the Manor Farm crossing is unsuitable for large vehicles as it is narrow and has two right angle bends; there is also concern about the safety of those using both the Parish Hall and School. If the access were used, the Parish Council would request that the whole lane be made good and up to standard once the works had been finished together with an agreed compensation scheme for the loss of income from the Parish Hall rents as the Parish Hall would be largely unusable without access to the car park.
2. Transportation of the materials to the northern storage site near the former Launton Station: it has already been accepted that it is not appropriate for any HGVs to come through the village of Launton via either Bicester or Blackthorn Roads and turn up Station Road as this turning is already dangerous and congested and it would not be acceptable to increase the HGV traffic through the village. Therefore, the Parish Council would like to be assured of the haul route for this storage site.

3. The closure of the Bicester Road, particularly regarding the diversion route and the safety of exit onto the A41 at the Blackthorn junction which is known to be hazardous. During a recent temporary closure of the Bicester Road, with all Launton traffic diverted along the Blackthorn Road to the A41, there was a fatal accident at the A41 junction; this is clearly something that nobody wishes to repeat. Network Rail must work closely with OCC Highways and any other authorities to ensure the safety of the road users.
4. Footpaths:
 - a. It was noted that Footpath Number 272/7 which joins Charbridge Lane was marked for closure. However, this is a very well-used route by villagers walking dogs, and more importantly getting to work and school in Bicester. If it must be closed, a temporary alternative route must be found.
 - b. Footpath number 272/20 has been marked for closure. There is another footpath – 272/21 which will remain open but this floods in winter. If 272/20 is closed, the Parish Council would like Network Rail to ensure that remedial action is undertaken on 272/21 to mitigate the loss of 272/20.
 - c. However, the Council is pleased to note that Jarvis Lane has been accepted as a public path.

I trust that this will be of benefit to the consultation.

Yours faithfully,

Jane Olds