

EWR Co Bedfordshire Local Representatives Group

Questions

Please find a summary of those questions which were emailed in advance of the meetings and asked during the last LRG meeting.

- 1. LRG #13 records. Why was the customary transcript (see LRG meetings 2-12) omitted? To compound matters the Meeting Summary Note referred only Parish and Ward group members as attendees making it impossible for community members to gauge who said what. The corresponding Bedford Town LRG notes are more to the standard required.**

Response: Recorded has now been added to community hub - [Agenda, Meeting Notes & Supporting Materials | Welcome to the Bedfordshire Local Representatives Groups page | East West Rail Community Hub](#).

Response: The summary note will include initials against comments as per other groups.

- 2. PWOS Restitution. When will the PWOS be reconfirmed in good time for the forthcoming Statutory Consultation?**

Response: We are not able to share this information as it is under review. It is changing significantly from the previous format and will be based on a combination of requirements and assumptions

- 3. Which quarter of this year will see the Statutory Consultation launched and how many weeks will the public consultation span please?**

Response: We're continuing to develop our proposals, having carefully reviewed feedback from various sources such as the two non-statutory consultations, Local Representatives Groups, and community drop-in events. To further improve the development of EWR, we'll be launching in the first half of this year, the first stage of our two-stage statutory consultation on the proposals for EWR.

A two-stage statutory consultation will maximise the opportunities for our communities to influence the proposals during the development stage of the design process. This approach will help us develop a better solution, more fully informed by the people living and working in the communities EWR will serve. eastwestrail.co.uk/news/latest-stories/preparing-for-dco

- 4. The c.£70M estimated saving by not upgrading the MVL is acknowledged but what are the bounding points used in deriving this? How close to Bedford Midland station was considered**

Response: The western boundary point for the track renewals is where the tracks changes between twin track and single track, in close proximity to the A5 in Bletchley

- 5. The EWR Library fact sheets carry no indication of date of issue or up-issue. The file name may carry such an indication, but it would considerably aid configuration control if the current document itself carried the version details.**

Response: Future iterations of any web document will be added with file name and dates.

6. Graphics of A428 Map- not very clear- check with maps team- can it be a Geojson file.

Response: Map will be reproduced with more clarity and available on the community hub by the next Bedfordshire LRG meeting.

7. Are EWR only hoping to build the rail line not operate it.

Response: When we submit our plans to the government and apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO), we'll also submit our suggested delivery model. This will advise who should own the railway. This will include suggestions for how the line is designed, built, maintained and operated. Ultimately, the government will take that decision, taking advice from East West Railway Company (EWR Co).

8. what percentage of the parking spaces at 10% station will be active EV and what centred will be passive EV spaces?

Response: More information on this will be available during statutory consultation.

9. What is the minimum statutory consultation period for a DCO? /How much notice will be expected to have of the start of the statutory consultation?

Response: Stat Con minimum is 1 week prior and 28 days for a stat con

10. It would be of great benefit to the Community and the communities, not representatives if we could pose questions during consultation to East West Rail to clarify. Is this possible?

Response: We are working with the consultation team to provide a meeting before the consultation event which would allow for invited guests to have 60 mins with our team to discuss any questions ahead of the public event. More detail on this will be shared closer to the statutory consultation period.

11. Is there a programme of geotechnical surveys?

Response: We do have the proposed scope for the phase 1 surveys, along with a strategy for further works that is under internal discussion. Much is still in the planning stages, and as the project develops and we approach statutory consultation more information will become available.

12. If you were going to base a scheme design in a DCO application, what percentage do you allow for in your costs for contingency to cover that risk? What percentage of contingency do you typically use in your budgets?

Response: As part of appraising the project, EWR follows HMT guidance and it, therefore, based its approach to risk on the latest Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) issued by the DfT. The guidance gives certain ranges based on the level of maturity of the project. As the project progresses and the design matures the risk provision will be reviewed at key points and adjusted accordingly. HMT and associated TAG guidance could be found here: [Green Book supplementary guidance: optimism bias - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612212/Green_Book_supplementary_guidance_optimism_bias_-_GOV.UK.pdf)

13. re e-scooters being considered as part of the connectivity solutions?

Response: E-scooters are being considered as part of our connectivity solutions as we recognise that the way people choose to make their active travel journeys is changing and the use of scooters, both owned and hired, is continuing to grow.

14. I understand that EWR are only hoping to build the rail line, NOT operate it - so who picks up the final tab? -no doubt the taxpayers.

Response: When we submit our plans to the government and apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO), we'll also submit our suggested delivery model. This will advise who should own the railway. This will include suggestions for how the line is designed, built, maintained and operated. Ultimately, the government will take that decision, taking advice from East West Railway Company (EWR Co).

15. Please define the catchment area for the stations in terms of door-to-door connectivity and define 'Door-to-Door Connectivity' in a way that I may explain fully to my residents, especially the elderly & disabled.

Response: Door-to-door connectivity is an approach that considers the travel needs of people from the very start of a journey until they reach their destination. This applies not only to those journeys involving rail travel, but also to journeys within the communities that we will serve.

Our approach will enable seamless, easy, and safe journeys for everyone across the route, including people with additional accessibility needs, with a focus on:

- Connectivity to and from stations
- Promoting and enabling Active Travel
- Maintaining community connectivity

16. Please explain how the villages of North Bedfordshire will benefit from Door-to-Door Connectivity given we do not have an adequate public transport network or safe cycleways.

Response: A key element of our approach is working with local authorities and other transport operators (such as bus companies) to seek out opportunities to improve local public transport and cycleways. We will work with these partners to consider what improvements can be made for the villages of North Bedfordshire.

17. Please explain how the additional infrastructure such as buses, cycleways, secure cycle storage etc. will be funded both now and in the future.

Response: Funding for infrastructure at stations and within railway land will be provided by the DfT as part of the EWR scheme. Ongoing maintenance and future improvements are likely to be funded by the Infrastructure Manager, embedded into the annual costs of running the railway.

Beyond the railway 'boundary' EWR will not be funded to deliver additional infrastructure and services (such as connecting buses), however we will be working closely with local authorities and other partners to present the case for unlocking further funding that will enable those organisations to deliver the additional infrastructure and services that will provide benefits to EWR customers and the wider community.

18. Varsity Option- Economic and Technical report the appendixes didn't seem to be included? Please provide links.

Response: Links to the Economic and Technical reports can be found here.

[ETR-Appendices-2023.pdf \(eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://www.eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/ETR-Appendices-2023.pdf)
: www.eastwestrail.co.uk/routeupdate

