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Bedfordshire Local Representatives Group

Meeting #13

Monday 27 November

01.
**Welcome and today's
agenda**

Today's agenda

01.
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02.
Housekeeping

03.
General Updates

04.
Review of actions from previous meetings

05.
Topic – EWR interaction with A428

06.
Topic – Marston Vale Line

07.
Closing remarks, future meetings and topics

02. Housekeeping

Housekeeping

Thank you for attending

This is a virtual meeting.

We will provide opportunities for questions at the end of each slide/section as appropriate.

If joining via Zoom:

Please display your full name as when you registered to attend – this can be done through the ‘Participants’ section.

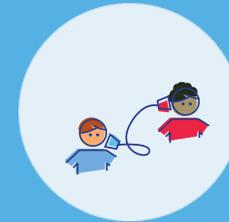
To help everyone feel part of the discussion, please feel free to turn your camera on during the meeting if you can.

Please use the ‘Raise Hand’ function to raise a question during the meeting, found in the bottom ribbon (under the ‘Reactions’ option).

This meeting will be recorded.



Display your full name in username



Please use the mute function



Use the ‘Raise Hand’ function if you want to raise a point during the meeting



Please do put your camera on if possible

03. General updates

General updates

Community conversations

- 9 events are being held over November and December
- These face-to-face drop-in meetings will be exclusively for leaders of local non-elected community and stakeholder groups that we know, as well as additional groups identified by the LRGs.
- In these sessions we will facilitate interactive activities aimed at better understanding how we can engage with your residents to ensure we hear a range of voices and gather views across all sections of the local community.



Groups invited in your area include:

- Chesterton Mews Residents group
- Bedford Heights
- Bedford Commuter Association
- Cycling campaign for North Bedfordshire
- Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association



Next event in your area: Thursday 30th November, Cauldwell Community Centre 2pm-7pm

04. Review of actions from previous meetings

Completed actions

Meeting	No.	Action	Owner	Status
12	2	EWR Co to follow up with group members to confirm if they have any specific local suggestions of who EWR Co should be engaging with or any ideas for how EWR Co should be engaging with local stakeholders and communities.	EWR Co	Complete - Email sent to group.
12	3	EWR Co to send a form round to group members to confirm if they are happy to have their contact details shared with the group and to be contacted outside of LRG meetings by other members. EWR Co to share these contact details with those who agree via email.	EWR Co	Complete – Poll sent around to group but only one individual registered.
12	4	EWR Co to confirm when details of the latest Programme Wide Output Specification (PWOS) standards can be publicly shared.	EWR Co	Complete - The PWOS is a live document currently being updated. We are not able to share this information as it is under review.
12	5	EWR Co to send a poll to the group to confirm which topics they would like to see covered at future meetings.	EWR Co	Complete – Email sent to group but no responses.

Outstanding actions

Meeting	No.	Action	Owner	Status
11	1	EWR Co to arrange a conversation between EWR Co's and BFARe's geotechnical experts to cover their findings on ground conditions north and south of Bedford.	EWR Co	Ongoing – This is being considered alongside the technical response to BFARe.

05.

Topic- EWR interaction with A428

Rob Milner, Area Manager: Clapham to Harston and Discovery Phase PM

EWR / A428 Interaction

National Highways plans are to upgrade the route between the Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet. A new 10 mile dual carriageway will connect the Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet roundabout. This will include:

- A new three tier junction at Black Cat roundabout which will allow traffic to flow freely on the A1 by travelling under the junction and on the new dual carriageway over the junction
- New junctions at Caxton Gibbet and Cambridge Road, connecting the new dual carriageway to the existing A428 and increasing the local road network's ability to cope with unforeseen incidents
- New Roxton Road link to connect Wyboston and Chawston
- New bridges crossing over the new dual carriageway at Roxton Road, Barford Road and Toseland Road
- New bridges over the River Great Ouse and East Coast Main Line railway
- The Scheme plans to move into full construction by the end of the year and expect the road to open in 2027.



A428 working relationship

EWR and A428 have a working relationship to enable us to consider how impacts of the schemes on surrounding communities and each other's scheme may be mitigated.

Ongoing liaison includes:

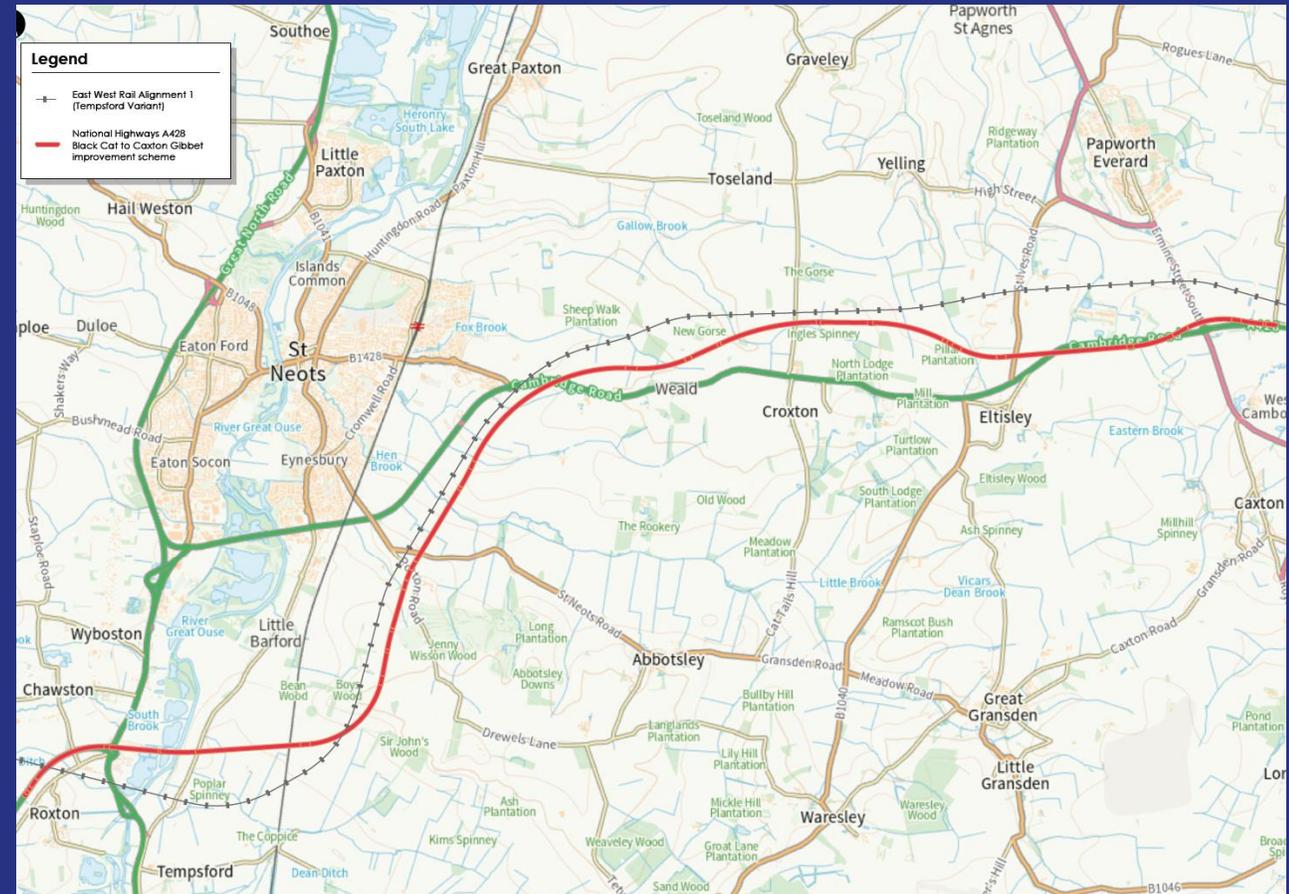
- technical meetings and workshops to co-operatively review designs and construction plans to mitigate potential impacts;
- sharing data to help inform design development and save on additional surveying work (i.e. repeat visits to land for information already collected);
- Providing project information cards for public information events.



A428 interfaces

Key Interfaces between the A48 Improvement Scheme and EWR Alignment 1 (Tempsford variant) include:

- Crossing of the revised A421 west of Black Cat roundabout
- Crossing A428 east of Black Cat roundabout
- Crossing Cambridge Road adjacent to remodelled roundabout, east of St Neots
- Interfaces local roads crossing the A428 and their associated structures
- Interaction with structures, earthworks and environmental features within A428 corridor



06.

Marston Vale Line

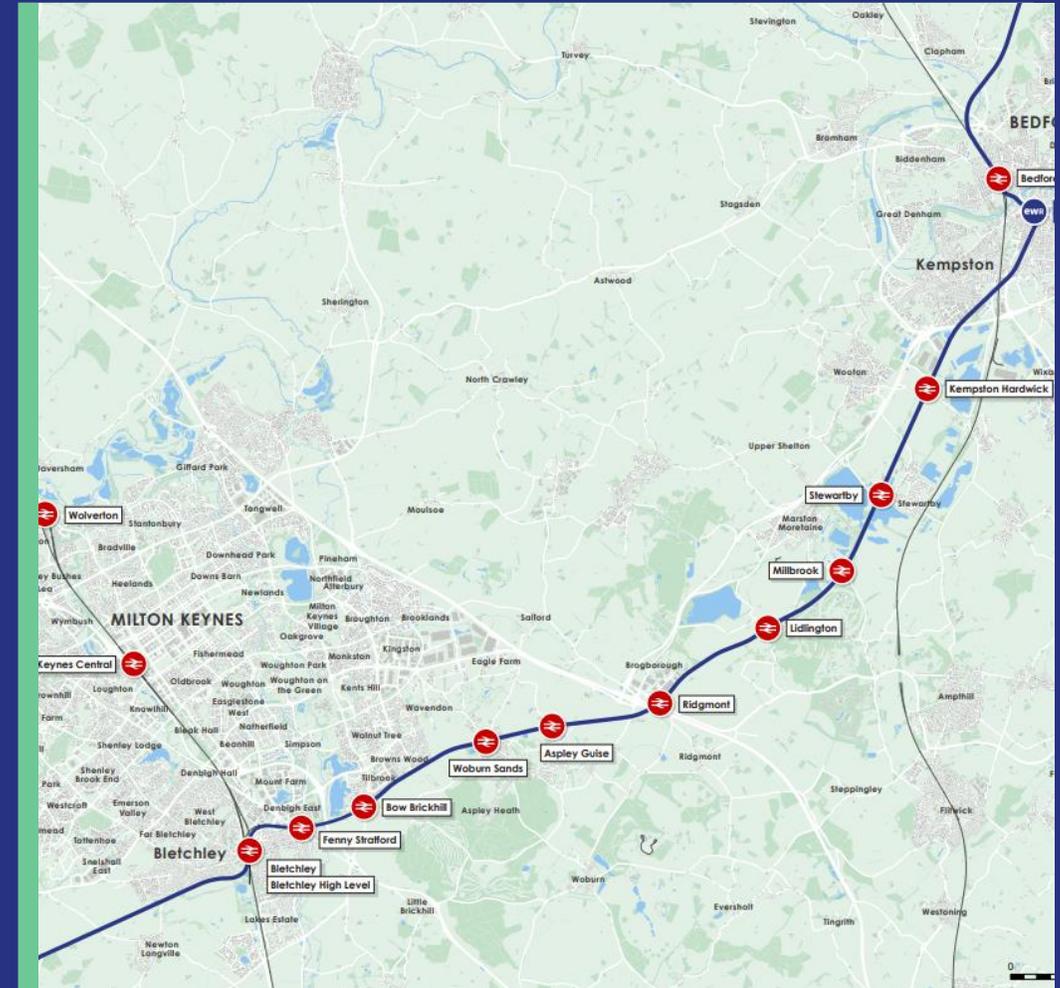
Ryan Robertson, Development Programme Manager: Marston
Vale Line Delivery

Bletchley to Bedford – the Marston Vale Line

We are proposing three trains per hour on the Marston Vale Line (MVL): rather than the four to five set out previously.

This change in frequency allows us to maintain the benefits of EWR and requires less construction work to upgrade the line. This will reduce disruption to local communities and passengers, as well as cut costs.

We are considering all three services together in identifying the best timetable and stopping pattern for communities along the line of the railway.



Bletchley to Bedford – the Marston Vale Line



Stations on the Marston Vale Line

Feedback at consultation was relatively evenly split in relation to the two concepts for services and station stops on the MVL.

- Concept 1 would retain the existing hourly service that stops at all intermediate stations and introduce fast limited-stop Oxford to Cambridge services alongside it
- Concept 2 would be five new merged stations on the Marston Vale Line.

While members of the public showed slightly more support for concept 1, statutory consultees preferred concept 2.

We're continuing to work with local stakeholders to help us identify the best solution for communities along this section of the route and we'll present these for comment at the statutory consultation.

Bletchley to Bedford – the Marston Vale Line

Line speeds and level crossings

We're also suggesting capping the line speed below the 100mph originally proposed in 2021, but above the current speed of 60mph. This would reduce disruption in residential areas, but still provide a faster service than currently available.

Combined with our updated view on frequency, the lower line speed means that some level crossings – for example at Woburn Sands and Lidlington – could still meet the appropriate safety standards and so could be retained possibly.

This would be one of the many ways we maintain local connectivity across and between communities.

07.

**Closing remarks, future
meetings and topics**

Topics for future discussion

Meeting #14 onwards:

Discussion: Other topics for future meetings - Compensation for impacted communities, Active travel examples from CS1

Agreed frequency: Every 6 weeks

Outcomes:

Actions:

Meeting notes – changes over the festive period



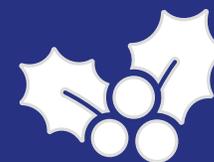
EWR Co: 10 working days production process (11th December)



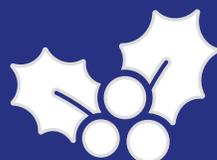
Meeting attendees: Note will be shared with attendees only
You will have until the Monday 8th January 2024 to respond



EWR Co: 5 working days amending process
Errors or omissions corrected



EWR Co: Final notes on Community Hub and link circulated (15th January)



We're always here

All the Group's relevant documents will be available on its **Community Hub** site.

We will notify you when available.



Got a question?

If you have any questions about the Group, please email:

localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk

If you have any questions about the project, please email:

contact@eastwestrail.co.uk

Or you can also call us on **0330 134 0067**