

Stakeholder Webinar Q&A: Part 3

Theme	Matter raised	EWR Co Response
Bedford St Johns	<p>Please publish your feedback from Bedford Hospital on the loss of patient and staff car parks caused by your new station and whether they could cope with another pandemic when the railway is not in use?</p> <p>What work has been done with the hospital to draw this as a valid conclusion?</p>	<p>During the development of our proposals for Bedford St Johns station we have engaged with both Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Bedford Borough Council and have taken into account the feedback received.</p> <p>The response from Bedford Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to our 2021 non-statutory consultation is set out below:</p> <p><i>“We write to submit Representations to the above public consultation on behalf of our Client, the Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (incorporating Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable University Hospital).</i></p> <p><i>The Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a key stakeholder within Bedford, providing essential healthcare provision to the population of the town and the wider area from their established sites at South Wing (Kempston Road) and North Wing (Kimbolton Road). In addition to their role as healthcare provider, the Trust is a major landowner and employer within the Bedford area.</i></p> <p><i>The main Bedford Hospital campus is situated at the South Wing, situated adjacent to Kempston Road, Ampthill Road and Britannia Road. The Hospital currently benefits from an accessible edge-off centre location close to St Johns Railway Station, with an extensive area of car parking for patients, visitors and staff occupying land between the station and Britannia Road.</i></p> <p><i>The East West Rail Consultation proposes changes to the track alignment in the vicinity of the Hospital (South Wing), with Option 1 proposing the relocation of Bedford St Johns Station closer to the Hospital. Whilst this would have the advantage of improving accessibility to public transport from the Hospital, the proposals would result in an immediate impact on existing Hospital car parking provision. The South Wing occupies a constrained and land-locked site, with limited opportunities for physical expansion. Indeed, the land between the Hospital and St Johns Station would likely have comprised the best location for intensification and future development.</i></p> <p><i>The Trust will need to ensure operational continuity during any construction works, along with safeguarding the on-going and future viability of the Hospital. The EWR project should not result in a net impact on the Hospital estate, and options for car parking re-provision will need to be carefully considered. We look forward to more detailed discussions with EWR Company in due course to discuss specific impact mitigation.</i></p> <p><i>It is important that strategic-level plans, including new infrastructure and transport projects, support the delivery of healthcare and facilitate good access to healthcare services. The Trust is seeking to work closely with Bedford Borough Council to ensure the establishment of both an integrated sustainable transport strategy for the Hospital and a shared vision for the ‘Land south of the River’ (designated for future redevelopment under Local Plan Policy 14). Likewise, the Trust is keen to engage with the EWR Company, to ensure that the East West Rail project will deliver local benefits in addition to strategic opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>The Trust would be keen to discuss matters further with EWR Company in relation to the emerging plans and proposals in the vicinity of the South Wing. We would be grateful if you could keep us informed of any updates on the East West Rail project, including future consultation opportunities.”</i></p> <p>Following the 2021 non-statutory consultation we have met with representatives from the Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to discuss the project and will continue to meet with the Trust, and Bedford Borough Council, to seek their views on our proposals. These discussions will help us identify opportunities to maximise the benefits of our proposals for the hospital, its staff and visitors as well as better understand any potential impacts, including the potential reduction in hospital parking, and identify ways avoid, minimise or mitigate these impacts.</p> <p>All other feedback received in relation to our proposals for Bedford St Johns station and our responses to the main themes raised is summarised in chapter 7 - section C of the Consultation Feedback Report.</p>

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Bedford Northern/Southern Route and BFARe option	Please publish your environmental assessment of the BFARE alternative, not the Varsity Line and demonstrate clearly why you have not assessed it in the same depth as e.g. north and south approaches to Cambridge	The EWR Co technical note: BFARe alignment review can be found here .