

Tallington Parish Council  
c/o Geoff Mayling (Chair)  
6 Searson Close  
Tallington  
Lincolnshire  
PE9 4RF

Network Rail  
Infrastructure Projects  
Scotland and North East  
Northern House  
9 Rougier Street,  
York, YO1 6HZ

18 March 2015

Dear Mr Mayling

### **East Coast Main Line Level Crossing Closure Feasibility Study: Tallington LC**

Thank you for your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 to our consultants WSP in Cambridge. Receipt was acknowledged by my e-mail of 6<sup>th</sup> March. A project update regarding Tallington, and other level crossings in the area, was sent to you by e-mail on 10<sup>th</sup> March, which I trust was presented to the Parish Council meeting held on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup>.

In your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 you raised a concern about the adequacy of Network Rail's consultation process.

The second round of public consultation is not a consultation on options. Network Rail, having considered various options and taking the feedback from many stakeholders from round 1 into account, determined which it believed to be the right one. Round 2 is a consultation on that preferred option.

In the first round of public consultation, held in June 2014, Network Rail presented details of two viable options. 'Viable' means options which, if operationally appropriate and affordable, could feasibly be constructed. There is no point in giving consideration to, or consulting on, an option once it has been determined that Network Rail will never be in a position to construct. Such an alternative simply is not an option for the project as is the case for a full bypass of Tallington.

Accordingly, at round 1 all consultees were able to compare the two viable options, provide their feedback and express a view. Network Rail took all resulting consultation responses into account as it is obliged to do. That is how the round 2 preferred option has been developed; to avoid the demolition of any properties and sited to the north of the village to facilitate the construction of a future bypass by others. This is all part of the process of evolving development that consultation is



designed to achieve. It has enabled Network Rail now to consult on a revised preferred option for which it will seek a Transport and Works Act Order.

This is precisely what the Transport and Works Act procedure requires. While there may be circumstances (e.g. when there are alternatives that are equally viable, as in round one) when it is appropriate to consult on options rather than the proposed scheme, that is not the case here in round 2.

You suggest that the round 2 public consultation period ought to be extended by three months, similar to the 6 months allowed for round 1. A three month period is fully compliant with the consultation requirements of the Transport and Works. However, the project timetable has altered so a six month period can now be accommodated and the deadline for round 2 public consultation responses for Tallington, and the other level crossings between Woodcroft and Greatford, has been extended to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 until 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015.

Please be assured that the Parish Council's comments contained in your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 will be taken into consideration along with all the feedback from other stakeholders as we develop our preferred option for Tallington over the coming months.

The March 2015 Tallington update, e-mailed to you on 10<sup>th</sup> March, includes Network Rail's position regarding a bypass, the Thurlby family/Tallington Bypass Now Group's proposals and alternative route into the village between the railway and Searson Close.

You will be interested to learn that our traffic model has now been validated by Peterborough City Council highways officers. However in the interests of cooperation we would be pleased to review your 'independent traffic surveys'.

The local community can continue to provide feedback until 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 via our website [www.networkrail.co.uk/ecmllevelcrossings](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/ecmllevelcrossings) or by e-mailing the project at the following address: [ECMLlevelcrossings@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:ECMLlevelcrossings@networkrail.co.uk).

Yours sincerely



Steve Poole  
Consents Manager