



31 July 2018

To: Paul McKeown
Network Rail
Investment Director
Toft Green
York
North Yorkshire
YO1 6JT
England

Dear Paul,

The reserved matters planning application for the new Brent Cross West station will be submitted to Barnet Council's planning authority later this year for determination.

During our public consultation sessions, residents have fed back their strong desire to ensure this valuable opportunity of a new station should benefit the whole community and provide full step free access for those with impaired mobility from pavement to train. This was also raised at the most recent Consultative Access Forum which is required as part of the section 106 agreement for the Brent Cross Thameslink development as a route to consult on accessibility issues.

The council fully supports the ambition to provide full step free access although it does understand that there are technical challenges in achieving this goal. We acknowledge that the new station will be built on the existing main line and you require the new platform construction to take account of multiple classes of rolling stock which will pass through the station at high speed. The current design does provide step free access to all platforms but does not provide step free access between train and platform. This is entirely a consequence of the current design being required to comply with Railway Group Standards.

While the construction of this station is a one-off exercise for the Council, we are sure that Network Rail must have dealt with this issue many times before. Could you please advise on what, if any, solutions may be possible to achieve full or partial level access between platform and train (e.g. slow lines only or a part section of a platform). In this context, could you also provide a commentary on solutions Network Rail has adopted elsewhere and the process that would be necessary to secure the required derogation from Railway Group Standards to achieve a solution that will be acceptable to the railway industry, as well as providing full accessibility.





You will be aware that we are at pre-submission Stage 4 of the planning application and will need to address this issue in our submission.

In addition, we welcome your view on the publication of the government's Accessible Transport Strategy last week and how that may influence the delivery of the new Brent Cross West station.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Fry', written over the typed name.

Ian Fry
Programme Director
Brent Cross Thameslink

