

# Meeting: BBC/ Bedford Hospital/ EWR car park options

**Held on: 12/06/2025**

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

## Attendees:

Richard Starkey (RS) – Bedford DCO Engagement Lead, EWR Co  
 Graeme Stewart (GS) – Programme Sponsor, EWR Co  
 Veronika Mora (VM) – Bedford Project Manager, EWR Co  
 Jon Franklin-Ferrar (JFF) – Bedford Design Lead, EWR Co  
 Mo Alserdare (MA) – Development Programme Manager, EWR Co  
 Paulina Wawrejko (PW) – Bedford DCO Support, EWR Co  
 Sam Fox (SF) – Universal Project Bedford, Planning Team, BBC  
 Carolyn Barnes (CB) – Planning Team, BBC  
 Steven Tomlinson (ST) – Head of Place Making, Network Rail  
 Melanie Banks – (MB) Director of Redevelopment and Strategic Planning, Bedford Hospital  
 Melanie McGuinness (MM) – Manager for Transport Policy, Infrastructure and Highways Development Control, BBC  
 Jean Brunning (JB) – Interim Planning Policy and Strategy, BBC  
 Joanna Branson-Budd (JBB) – Head of Capital Projects, Sustainable Travel and Infrastructure, BCC

Meeting objectives: to provide an overview and update on Bedford St John’s design options.

## Meeting minutes:

Item	Text	Action
1.	Introductions	
2.	<p>GS provided an overview of the different hospital car park replacement options to date. Key points from Option 1A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Side platform arrangement</li> <li>• Primary entrance to the west of the rail line, pick up/drop off (PUDO) and Multi Storey Car Park (MSCP) also to west of line</li> <li>• PUDO doubles as access point into car park.</li> </ul>	

Item	Text	Action
3.	<p>GS provided an overview of the different hospital car park replacement options to date. Key points of option 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Island platform arrangement</li> <li>• Access to station from active travel route that runs between Elective Car and Medical Car hospital buildings</li> <li>• MSCP located to east of rail line</li> <li>• PUDO located to east of rail line</li> </ul>	
4.	<p>GS provided an overview of the different hospital car park options to date. Key points of option 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Island platform arrangement</li> <li>• Access to station from active travel route that runs between Elective Care and Medical Car hospital buildings</li> <li>• MSCP located to south of Ampthill Road on the current Bedford Women's Centre and Bedford Arts and Crafts Centre site. Potential for pedestrian access into station and to hospital by exiting car park to east and walking under Ampthill Road overbridge</li> <li>• PUDO located to east of rail line</li> <li>• Latest hospital masterplan is considered within this option</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
5.	ST discussed the possibility of rotating hospital buildings in an attempt to optimise the space available.	
6.	<p>CB mentioned that BBC have met with Economic Heartland at the Connection Stage 3 meeting.</p> <p>Action: GS to look over meeting minutes and actions from the Connection Stage 3 meeting.</p>	1
7.	MB explained that Bedford Hospital is an old building and the Hospital needs to rebuild their operating theatre therefore they have been granted funding for an Elective Hub to be build.	
8.	MB noted that the master plan for the Hospital's elective hub was approved in 2023 but there is a conflict in trying to accommodate for 1,100 car spaces as the Hospital area is tight. MB noted that hospital designs have changed slightly.	
9.	Attendees agreed that conversations need to be held regularly on a joint basis with EWR Co, BBC and Bedford Hospital so that a collaborative solution can be found to the car parking issue.	
10.	<p>CB shared the Council's illustrative master plan.</p> <p>Action: SF to share the illustrative master plan with EWR Co</p>	2

Item	Text	Action
11.	BCC raised the discussion on possible parking on Prebend Street. MB agreed that Prebend would be a viable option to locate some car parking spaces but noted that some on-site parking provisions would still be needed.	
12.	MA asked whether the Hospital had any active travel plans and initiatives. Action: MB to share this with EWR Co	3
13.	GS noted that EWR Co is happy to develop more than one option but they would like to see progression on the designs.	
14.	CB shared the Council's illustrative master plan and showed where Prebend Street is in relation to the hospital. MA noted that Prebend Street is a 6-minute walk away to the hospital.	
15.	SF asked about the possibility of reconfiguring the buildings on hospital land. Action: GS to meet with Fatkins to understand building configuration.	4
16.	Attendees agreed the meeting was useful and agreed that a collaborative approach is needed to solve the parking issue.	

## Action log:

Action	Action Owner
1. GS to look over meeting minutes and actions from the Connection Stage 3 meeting.	EWR Co - GS
2. SF to share the illustrative master plan with EWR Co.	BBC - SF
3. MB to Bedford Hospital's active travel plans and initiatives with EWR Co.	Bedford Hospital – MB
4. GS to meet with Fatkins to understand building configuration at Bedford Hospital	EWR Co - GS