

Meeting: EWR/BBC – Bedford Midland Station plans - summary

Held on: 26/08/2025

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Jo Branson-Budd (JBB) – Head of Capital Projects, Infrastructure & Sustainable Travel, Bedford Borough Council
Gavin Chinniah (GC) – Head of Planning & Building Control, Bedford Borough Council

Also representatives from EWR Co.

Meeting objectives: to give an overview of changes to plans for Bedford Station, and why EWR's most up to date proposals require some properties on Ashburnham Road to be acquired.

Meeting minutes:

Item	Text	Action
1.	<p>Discussion as to what has changed, why it's changed and the current status of the design at Bedford Station.</p> <p>EWR ran through the changes in the proposals which are based on buildability assessments and constructability workshops with contractors and consultants as well as a more ambitious vision for the station.</p> <p>The key points discussed are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-developing Bedford Station without acquiring properties on Ashburnham Road would result in a substantive programme delay that would elongate the programme and likely result in cost impacts that would likely be in the hundreds of millions. • Given the above, EWR's conclusion is that the design presented at NSC3 no longer represents a viable option. The cost and schedule impacts are such that it would call into question the viability of the programme overall. • The new and improved proposal considerably enhance the station offering at Bedford station and allow for a more user-friendly use of station forecourt areas. 	

Item	Text	Action
	Off-site construction was discussed but not viable, due to safety, logistics, space constraints, construction traffic, disruptions to the affected residents in Ashburnham Road, delays in construction and bringing EWR trains into service.	
2.	Car park: EWR gave an overview of the car park situation at Bedford Station and options for location. Feedback from non-statutory consultation 2024 suggested people wanted to split the car park over two sites – into northern and eastern multi-storey car parks but EWR’s preferred option is Ford End Road.	
3.	Discussion about how EWR is contacting residents of Ashburnham Road. EWR confirmed that an engagement plan had been developed and that a discussion had taken place between the EWR CEO and BBC CEO about the engagement plan.	