Meeting: EWR/Bedford Borough Council – Traffic Modelling around Bedford St Johns

Held on: Wednesday 18 February (09:00 – 10:00)

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

- Andrew Prigmore (AP)
- Joanne Branson-Budd (JBB)
- Melanie McGuinness (MM)

Representatives also from EWR Co

Meeting objectives: To present Bedford Borough Council (BBC) with the latest traffic modelling proposals around Bedford St Johns and confirm/address previously raised concerns from BBC around traffic.

Meeting summary:

1. **Introductions:** BBC were welcome to the meeting and the agenda was presented
2. **Approach to Transport Modelling:** EWR Co presented the modelling approach, covering forecasting, impact assessments, mitigation considerations, and the need for BBC input on the Base Year model.
3. **Approach to Transport Assessment:** EWR Co presented the approach for DCO submission (2027), with the Consultation Document due in Spring 2026. Assessment as part of the DCO submission includes: junction performance, severance, NMU journey times, road safety, and construction routing.
4. **BBC Traffic Concerns around Bedford St Johns:** BBC raised concerns around Cauldwell Street, Kempston Road, and Kings Place near the MSCP access.
5. **Traffic Modelling Overview around Bedford Station:** EWR Co outlined expected traffic distributions into the new Ford End Road car park and the new Ashburnham Road surface car park. BBC requested a summary of alternative car park site options considered.
6. **BBC Traffic Concerns around Bedford Station / Wider Bedford:** Discussion covered anticipated increases in demand due to Universal, potentially adding 8,000–10,000 jobs and increasing station access.
7. **AOB:** EWR Co to introduce 6-weekly T&T forums from April onwards. BBC may request additional meetings after review consultant-provided data.

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