

Draft Talbot Village SPD – Proposed Response to Public Consultation

The Talbot and Branksome Woods Residents Association wish to draw the Cabinet's attention to the lack of any Recommended Response to Paragraph 6.10.15 of the Draft SPD. This paragraph states:

“There may be potential in the longer term to provide a dedicated railway halt on the London to Weymouth line that runs to the south of the campus and integrates with wider pedestrian and cycle infrastructure. The platform could extend from Rothesay Road and Glenferness Avenue. This would provide direct access to London, Southampton and Winchester and provide improved commuter access as well as enhanced economic potential for the campus. Further feasibility work will be required to test the deliverability of this proposition.”

The provision of a Railway Halt according to Network Rail would involve the closure of a Railway Station further down the track – presumably Branksome.

It would of course also entail the compulsory purchase and excavation of a sizeable portion of the back gardens of the 14 houses in East Avenue between Glenferness Avenue and Rothesay Road, which back onto the railway line. Similarly to provide a platform on the opposite side of the track would entail the purchase of a similar size piece of land of the playing fields of Talbot Heath School.

This would be a huge financial outlay so therefore it is farcical to consider the creation of a mere Railway Halt. It would inevitably be a Station, with everything that goes with it – lighting, announcements and noise, not to mention the provision of a car park, taxi ranks, and also most likely on-street parking.

East Avenue, Glenferness Avenue and Rothesay Road are all key roads in the Meyrick Park & Talbot Woods Conservation Area. How would the provision of such a railway station in their midst preserve or enhance the conservation area?

Bournemouth Council's response to the Draft SPD already in its Recommended Response 2 says “..... Land use proposals outside of the SPD boundary should therefore be deleted from the Indicative Master Plan as portrayed in the SPD.”

The proposed Railway Halt is in Bournemouth and outside of Poole Council's SPD boundary. The Residents Association asks that Bournemouth Council in their Response requests the Deletion of Paragraph 6.10.15, the Railway Halt, from Poole's Draft SPD.