



4<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Warrington Borough Council (Planning, Policy & Programmes),  
New Town House,  
Buttermarket Street,  
WARRINGTON WA1

Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposal to Convert West-East Railway into Road, Latchford/Theilwall

I am writing to you to express two concerns regarding the above proposal.

The first concern is that local consultation appears to have been inadequate. A number of local residents have expressed a view to me that consultation was "passive". In other words, it relied upon local people finding out about the existence of the proposal by chance.

It may well have been on the Council website, and mentioned in the local press, but I expect that few local people spend time checking Council websites, and only a minority may read local newspapers. In my view as a planner, a major proposal such as this requires active consultation with all local residents, by letter.

My second concern is very specific. My understanding is that Transport for the North are examining the possibility of a high speed rail network (sometimes termed HS3) which could, amongst other possibilities, link the Liverpool area with Manchester Airport. I should mention that I (along with Prof. Ian Wray and the late Prof. Sir Peter Hall) were co-authors of one of the two reports that led to this proposal. One potential option for HS3 would be to run via Fiddlers Ferry, a station at Warrington Bank Quay low level and the Lymm area.

Clearly, your proposal would obstruct such an option. Has Transport for the North been formally consulted on your proposal to take over the Latchford rail alignment for a road?

I am copying this letter to Faisal Rashid MP, to seek his views. I am also shortly meeting Transport for the North, in their Leeds office.

