

Dear Planning Inspectorate

During the last few months National Highways (NH) came to a decision to remove Sutton Station a heritage building to NVR and Railworld over 11 kms from the road scheme and both organisations have no links to the road scheme. They will be awarded a sizable amount of tax payers money to complete this removal and rebuilding. This will be conducted by Designated Funding (DF) a separate body/department within NH. By delegating to DF takes it out of the DCO and away from scrutiny by your remit and process. Over the last month we have slowly found out how disingenuous the whole process has been. They appear to have almost made their decision based on heritage alone and because they have a heritage line and a up and running charity, this will tick most of the boxes for NH.

Our proposal was to rebuild the station to the south side of the existing A47 rail bridge and to become a community trust building being reused by the local and further afield general public using the WCHER route. Part of the John Clare Heritage trails, informing of the history of the "Bread & Onion Line and its relation with the Great Northern Line and Stamford. As we developed our plan and vision we quickly realized this would "enhance" the scheme especially for connectivity for the local settlements and using eco friendly travel. This is not right that a heritage building is removed out of its historical setting, depleting the meaning or the remaining structures, to satisfy the desires of heritage railway charity at great expense to the public purse. This whole process has been conducted with no consultation with the 4 parishes closely connected to the station.

Recently I found a website on Designated Funding and states "Your proposal should align with all, or most of our funding principles"

I cannot find even one out of the 14 principles that could be even met by NVR/Railworld.

For example principle 12. "Be on the Highways England estate or have a clear relationship with it." The other relocation is in Peterborough, our relocation proposal was within the DCO and connects to the WCHER route.

I have sent you a drawing which is basically a pictorial vision of the way this has been handled by various parties in this dubious decision process conducted by NH/DF

The loss is more than just a beautiful building, it is the loss of heritage from our community, the potential degrading of a wildlife corridor and the lost opportunity for a real positive indicator on the usage of the road scheme and its inter-reaction with the public.

I have learnt an awful lot about this process both positive and negative, and thank you for the the involvement during the examination process. Hindsight is a wonderful thing I just wish I had heaps of foresight!!!

With regards

Robbie Reid



