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To: Neighbourhood Planning
Subject: Network Rail response to Chobham Neighbourhood Plan

OFFICIAL

Good morning

Network Rail consultation response to draft Chobham Neighbourhood Plan (submission version)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan. We would like to congratulate the steering group on the work put into the Plan. There is clearly very little interaction with the Neighbourhood Plan Area (NPA) and the railway. The South West Main Line (aside from along the northern boundary) does not run through the NPA and the nearest rail stations are located some distance outside the NPA boundary. Para 2.9 of the draft Plan is noted which identifies Longcross as close to the NPA and therefore is likely to one used by residents. Rail services through Longcross have been increased since the re-development of part of the Longcross studios site however, further improvements to the station itself and the access are required. This makes it difficult to promote improved connections with the stations as, realistically, very few residents within the NPA will cycle to Longcross, Brookwood, Sunningdale or Woking stations which are all outside the furthest extents of the NPA.

Therefore, it would be expected that any current or future residents within the NPA would likely drive to these stations to access the rail network for commuting or leisure purposes. Whilst we note that the Plan does not allocate any new housing sites, the anticipated 180 units from commitments and allocations within the Surrey Heath Local Plan (Reg 19) is not an insignificant number. It would be of value if the Steering Group/Parish Council undertook work that looks at where residents within the NPA travel to access the rail network as this would help inform future railway planning to determine if additional capacity at station car parks needs to be considered to accommodate users from the NPA or if alternative modes of travel could be suitable/viable to consider improving access for residents of the NPA to the rail network.

Please take the above as Network Rail's formal response and we would be happy to engage further with the Steering Group and the Parish Council.

Best Regards,
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