

## **Item 14 Development Committee 5 June 2024**

### **Note of Meeting with Network Rail, Northern Rail, Todmorden Council and Calderdale Council – 23 May 2024**

Present: James Lomax (Project Delivery Manager NR), Jon Nader (Project and Design Manager NR), Paul Mansell (Project Manager Northern Rail), Andrew Elwood (Health and Safety), Trevor Armitage (Station Manager Northern Rail).

Cllr S Martin and Mrs S Miles – Todmorden Town Council

Cllrs D Tremayne and S Dacre, Mr John Lewer – Calderdale Council

#### **1. Background**

This meeting was set up because of the enquiries from the Development Committee about progress with the accessibility improvements and issues with pedestrian safety whilst the works are going ahead.

#### **2. Design Issues**

The rationale for the delay in the works was explained.

The railway station office was originally sited where the gap is sited (it is sloping and covered with cobble stones) next to the current railway station offices. There were concerns that the wall at the top of the gap would not be strong enough to support the platforms if the materials below were removed to enable the installation of the lift for platform 1.

NR have drilled trial holes into the land in the gap (which is made up of rubble) and have established that the wall at the top has been built to support the railway line. They can now progress with the building works to install two lifts (one on each platform), a toilet on platform 1 and general accessibility improvements including new signage.

NR are installing a new electrical sub station at the rear of the car park to supply the electricity required for the two new lifts and for a separate project involved with installing points for electric car charging further down the approach to the station. As part of the preliminary assessment, it has been established that a live water main supplying water to parts of Todmorden lies under the road and car park. It is important that this has been identified to prevent damage to the mains during the works which could result in local water outtages.

It was explained that much of the work will take place in the gap at the front of the station, hence the need for the Harris fencing to separate the working area from the road. After the lift works have been completed (expected by March 2025) the gap will be reinstated and the Todmorden emblem placed in the centre of the space (this will be

consulted on). It is expected that the toilet, signage and other accessibility improvements will be completed well before March 2025.

### **3. Pedestrian Access During the Accessibility Works**

To improve pedestrian access, it has been proposed that the Harris fencing on the station approach road will be moved back slightly and straightened to make more space and signage will be put in place to direct pedestrians to the existing crossing point to the other side of the road near the Queens Hotel. This will be done by 31 May, 2024.

### **4. Installing the lift on Platform 2**

The materials for the lift on Platform 2 (to be sited to the side where the steps for the platform are situated, will be lifted from a train on the platform. This will require night work.

### **5. Installation of the Toilet on Platform 1**

As soon as the work has been completed for the lift on Platform 1, the toilet will be erected near it. This will be accessible, with the required 1.5m turning circle in front of it for wheelchairs. It will be a fully accessible toilet with hot and cold running water and a heater. There will be a pull cord linked to the station office and an intercom linked to the Customer Service Centre in Sheffield. This is to help with any issues arising, including health and safety. The outside of the toilet will be monitored by CCTV.

The toilet will be available when the station is open (until 10.45pm) but will be locked after this time until the station re-opens.

The exterior of the toilet will be customized to blend with the heritage appearance of the station with coursed stone and a red access door (to match the rest of the station).

### **6. Signage**

There will be new signage plus an additional sign for those who are blind/partially sighted – a Braille map. There will also be new wayfaring signage for the rest of the public.

### **7. Other Issues**

A commitment was given that the missing entrance door to the station will be replaced.

The damaged road in front of the railway station will be raised with Calderdale Highways by the Assistant Town Clerk.

Susan Miles  
Assistant Town Clerk  
23 May 2024