

RAIL CENTRAL PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS OPEN TODAY

First of eight Public Exhibitions takes place in Blisworth as the local community is invited to comment on the draft proposals

The first in a series of eight public exhibitions on the proposals for Rail Central takes place today (Thursday 28 April).

Members of the community and people with an interest in the proposals are being invited to visit the public exhibitions to find out more about what is proposed and contribute to the planning process.

The public exhibitions are being held from 28 April until 21 May in Blisworth, Milton Malsor, Collingtree, Roade and Towcester. The public exhibitions are part of the overall programme of consultation which is set out in a 'Statement of Community Consultation' (SoCC) document.

James Digby from Rail Central said: "With the public exhibitions starting today and running for the next three weeks, we're keen to ensure that people who want to find out more and get involved can do exactly that. The public exhibitions are an important part of the overall consultation programme which will help inform the proposals we ultimately submit."

More dates and details on the exhibitions and the consultation programme are set out on the website (www.railcentral.com) and across a variety of publicity that is taking place locally.

Today's exhibition is at The Walnut Tree Inn in Blisworth and open from 12.00pm until 8.00pm (21 Station Road, NN7 3DS).

Members of the public are invited to submit comments back in response to the public consultation by Friday 30 September 2016.

All written feedback will be recorded and contribute to a Consultation Report which will be submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate in the first quarter of 2017.

Rail Central is a proposal for a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) at a key strategic location where the West Coast Main Line meets the Northampton Loop Line adjacent to the A43 and within 2 miles of the M1.

It is in line with Government policy for investment and expansion in rail freight capability and could see approximately 8,000 jobs created.

Subject to permission being granted to build Rail Central, the earliest potential start of construction would be in 2019.

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