

## NEWS FROM RAIL CENTRAL

1 March 2018

### CONSULTATION DATES PUBLISHED FOR RAIL CENTRAL

#### Phase Two consultation to take place between 15 March and 23 April

Rail Central, the proposed Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) and logistics hub near Northampton, has today (1 March) published dates for its Phase Two consultation.

The consultation will take place between 15 March and 23 April 2018 and includes six public exhibitions at venues in Blisworth, Milton Malsor, Roade and Towcester.

The dates are being published in an updated Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which sets out details for how the consultation will be carried out and how people can take part.

The Phase Two consultation will complement the Phase One consultation (which took place in 2016) and provides an important opportunity for the local community, landowners, neighbours, local authorities and a full range of stakeholders to comment on the proposals before an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) is made.

James Digby from Rail Central said: "Consultation is an important part of the overall planning process and we're keen to receive feedback which can help us to improve the proposals and make them the best they can be. Rail Central is a scheme of national significance which responds to national planning policy and would deliver approximately 8,000 jobs and a substantial boost to the economy. As we did at Phase One, we want to listen to feedback which can contribute to the scheme design and this Phase Two consultation is specifically designed to enable people to participate."

The Phase Two public exhibitions are happening at:

Venue	Address	Date	Time
<b>Walnut Tree Inn</b>	21 Station Rd, Blisworth NN7 3DS	Thursday 15 March	2pm – 8pm
<b>Milton Malsor Village Hall</b>	High Street, Milton Malsor, NN7 3AS	Saturday 17 March	12.30pm – 5.30pm
<b>Roade Village Hall</b>	Bailey Brooks Lane, Roade NN7 2LS	Wednesday 21 March	1pm – 7pm
<b>South Northamptonshire Council Chamber</b>	The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester, NN12 6AD	Thursday 22 March	1pm – 7pm
<b>Milton Malsor Village Hall</b>	High Street, Milton Malsor, NN7 3AS	Friday 23 March	2pm – 8pm
<b>Blisworth Village Hall</b>	19 Stoke Road, Blisworth NN7 3DB	Saturday 24 March	10am – 4pm

Rail Central is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) which means thorough consultation is carried out during the development of the proposals in what is called the 'pre application' stage. In 2016, Rail Central undertook a comprehensive Phase One consultation which led to a number of important changes being made to the scheme.

These changes include a new underpass beneath the Northampton / Towcester Road (instead of a roundabout), restricting vehicle movements at the site's junction with the Northampton / Towcester Road to emergency vehicles only (all vehicles wanting to access the site will do so from a dedicated new roundabout access off the A43), and proposing parkland and managed green space on the part of the site west of the A43 (closest to Blisworth Arm and the canal) instead of the leisure (ie hotel) and commercial development previously considered in this location.

At the Phase Two consultation, details for highways works will also be published including proposals for substantial changes at J15A of the M1. The scale of this proposed work is an NSIP in its own right.

Details of all highways and junctions improvements will be explained following a rigorous and wide-ranging design process which benefitted from the new Northamptonshire County highways model. This model, which shows current traffic patterns and anticipated future demand in years to come, formed a key part of the overall Rail Central highways design process.

Anyone wanting to participate in the consultation can submit feedback from 15 March via special feedback forms at the public exhibitions, by e-mailing or on-line at the Rail Central website ([www.railcentral.com](http://www.railcentral.com)) or by post. All feedback needs to be provided in writing by 23 April. Full details are included in the SoCC which is published today on the website and at a number of local venues close to the proposed site.

The information published at Phase Two will include a full suite of technical reports and surveys together with non-technical summaries specifically designed to ensure as wide a range of people as want to can participate in the consultation.

Following the Phase Two consultation, all feedback will be reported in a Consultation Report which forms part of the submission documents when applying for a DCO.

The DCO application is expected to be submitted in mid summer. It will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) which is the Government body responsible for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. PINs may then accept the application for Examination leading to a recommendation being made to the Secretary of State who will ultimately make the decision.

If approved, the earliest anticipated start of construction on site would be late 2019 with the potential for the first business occupiers to move in during 2021.

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## **Notes to Editors**

Full information on Rail Central can be found at [www.railcentral.com](http://www.railcentral.com)

See the Project Library website page (from 1 March) for a copy of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) – this is a document in two parts: the main SoCC document and a supporting Report to Inform the SoCC (which includes additional detail and supporting material).

The SoCC is also available to view at the locations listed in the Section 48 notice – a copy of which is listed on the Project Library website page.

More information on the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects is available at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

## **Media Contact**

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