

*Email to Richard Turner, Community Relations Manager, Western Communications,
Network Rail, 14 April 2015*

Richard,

This is extremely disappointing from Network Rail and very damaging to community relations. This would have been the first opportunity for the Action Group, concerned residents and local representatives to meet with Network Rail and voice their concerns, but Network Rail has again failed to take the chance to consult or even communicate with some of its key stakeholders and the general public.

From the information we have seen, Network Rail has not followed due process in carrying out its Permitted Development Rights in this area by failing to provide information (especially detailed designs) promised to local authorities and by failing to consult with them properly, even when having pledged to do so.

Network Rail has also failed to provide any serious justification or mitigation in the design it intends to deploy along this stretch, which will have a hugely adverse environmental impact on the AONB, as has been recognised and stated in its own Environmental Statement.

We have cancelled the meeting on Wednesday, but it is still essential that a meeting takes place between us urgently in order to agree a design that is acceptable to the local community and the responsible statutory bodies. Given Network Rail's reluctance to discuss these issues with the general public and local representatives, please advise how we can progress this meeting.

Ian Haslam
Railway Action Group