

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th April 2019

New Constituent,

RE: LEYLAND BRIDGE.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the ongoing works to the Irthlingborough Road bridge; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I have been raising your concerns intensively with both Ministers at the Department for Transport and with Network Rail and I am delighted to be able to inform you that plans are now in place for the Irthlingborough Road bridge to be rebuilt. I am delighted with this announcement, given the significant inconvenience this has caused for both residents and businesses alike, and I know it will be a huge relief to all concerned. I am very grateful to all those involved in 'ROAR' and the thousands of residents who have returned their petition slips, or signed it online, which we will now present to keep the pressure up to get the works completed as quickly as possible.

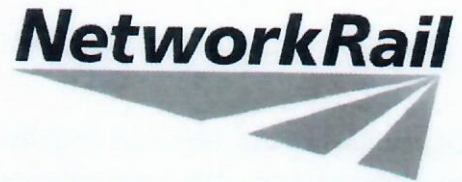
Further to my correspondence with Network Rail, I have received the enclosed substantive response from Rob McIntosh, Route Managing Director at Network Rail, which sets out their plans. I trust that this response is of interest to you and that it clarifies Network Rail's up-to-date position on the matters raised.

Rest assured, I will continue to follow the progress of these works closely and continue to raise my constituents' concerns with both Ministers at the Department for Transport and Network Rail, to get the works completed as quickly as possible.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



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16 April 2019

DEAR Tom,

I write further to my letters to you dated 1 April in relation to the work at Irthlingborough Road bridge to provide an update on Network Rail's plans and following the serious concerns which I know a number of your constituents have expressed about the work.

Initially I would like to reiterate my sincere apologies to the local residents and businesses who have been affected by the bridge replacement work. I appreciate the impact which road closures can have for road users which is why I asked my team to undertake a thorough review of all options available to reinstate a bridge at Irthlingborough Road.

That review has now completed and I can confirm that we will resume reconstruction of Irthlingborough Road Bridge in the near future. This will involve a bridge will be built in the same location, but being rebuilt at a raised height to allow for the safe passage of high-voltage overhead line equipment which needs to be installed to allow the railway from Bedford to Kettering and Corby to be electrified.

I hope that this is welcome news, and also that it is helpful to confirm that the review by my team has taken the representations made by local stakeholders, businesses and the community relating to the disruption caused extremely seriously.

The review also re-examined the timeline for the "Route 2" bridge which we were planning to install in partnership with Bovis Homes as part of the Stanton Cross development. Whilst we remain supportive of Route 2 it is now clear that its completion will take longer than first anticipated and cause a prolonged period of inconvenience to your constituents which we deemed to be unacceptable.

In light of these considerations my team has held positive discussions with Northamptonshire County Council and has agreed that we will reconstruct a structure in the same location to replace the one which was demolished at Christmas 2018. The programme for this work is being developed at speed and we will share our plans with local stakeholders in the coming weeks as soon as they are available.

In the interim Network Rail will continue to work closely with our partners including Northamptonshire

County Council and Highways England to minimise disruption and make sure that the diversionary arrangements which are in place operate as effectively as they can do.

I hope that this information is welcome. My team will contact you again with the details of the reconstruction plan and how we will share these plans with local businesses and the community.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob McIntosh', written over a diagonal line that extends from the top left towards the center of the page.

Rob McIntosh
Route Managing Director, LNE & EM
Network Rail Infrastructure Limited