

LONG BUCKBY PARISH COUNCIL



**Clerk to the Council:
Mrs S Porter**

**3 Packwood Close
Middlemore
Daventry
Northants
NN11 8AJ**

12th March 2009

Dear Mr Kemp,

Information from Long Buckby Parish Council

Daventry Appeals Public Inquiry Northampton 2009

Appeal A - The Danetree Consortium (APP/Y2810/A/08/2071504) & (APP/M9570/A/08/2071505)

Appeal B - Capel House Property Trust Ltd (APP/M9570/A/08/2082894)

Appeal C - Croudace Homes Ltd (APP/Y2810/A/08/2083322) & (APP/M9570/A/08/2083327)

At the Public Inquiry session for third parties on Tuesday March 3rd, the representative for Long Buckby Parish Council, Mr Myers, was asked two questions by Mr Hill, the Inspector, which related to Long Buckby Railway Station. He asked if Mr Myers knew the costs of improvements to the station and whether a previous bid for improvements to the station were supported by Network Rail and the rail companies.

In response to these questions, we are attaching a copy of the full Community Infrastructure Fund bid which was prepared by consultants in July 2005, as well as summarising the main relevant points as follows:

- the bid for £1.2M was prepared by Atkins in July 2005 (but based on 2002 prices – as required, we believe, by the Government);
- construction costs were shown as £1.5M – we believe the difference is 'optimism bias' (to allow for actual costs almost invariably exceeding budget)
- no third party funding had been identified at the time of application so the CIF bid was for 100% - lack of third party funding may well have been a significant factor which counted against the proposal
- the projected benefit to cost ratio was 5 - this is a strong level of benefit as for transport projects anything over 2.5 is often successful We believe that a BCR of 5 needs further investigation and validation.
- Network Rail and the train operator at the time, Silverlink, both supported the project (in principle, if not with finance)

LONG BUCKBY PARISH COUNCIL



- the scheme included - improved lighting of station approach, subway and platforms, CCTV, permanent ticket office (including toilets and heated waiting area), passenger information system for train and bus services (at ticket office and on both platforms), access ramps to platforms and improved arrangements for bus/rail interchange
- The cost of each element was not provided and improved bus services to Daventry and DIRFT were expected to be supported by funds from NCC and developers

We wish to point out that the first 42 pages of the project appraisal are a full set of supporting worksheets, which assess a wide range of, economic, environmental and transport impacts in a standard format.

We hope that this information will be of use in the examination of Highways and Transport matters in later stages of the Public Inquiry and that it will further the cause of providing good facilities at Long Buckby Railway Station.

We also hope that the Inspectors will give us the opportunity to make a further submission in the light of new evidence that may come forward on Highways and Transport from the Highways Agency, from the County Council and from the appellants.

Kind regards
Yours sincerely,

Sue Porter
Clerk for Long Buckby Parish Council