

Ms Sushila Dhall  
12 Stable Close  
Rewley Park  
Oxford OX1 2RF

August 8<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Re: Draft Chiltern Railways (Bicester to Oxford) Order Ojection  
number 235**

Dear Ms Baker,

Thank you for your letter. I am sorry not to have replied sooner, and I appreciate your invitation to respond to the letter from Ian Gilder, Head of Planning, ERM, for and on behalf of the Chiltern Railway Company Ltd.

I do not wish to withdraw my objection and will say why by addressing each point individually as raised in the letter of response that I have received. I wish to make my statement by making these responses to each point:

- 1. Regarding an increase in stopping trains outside my property;**  
from the current rail line we have times when it is peaceful and trains pass through, and also a few times of day when idling engines cause high levels of vibration and noise in our garden and house. The vibration affects the house and those inside it even when the (double glazed) door is shut, but of course it is far worse when the back door is open, as it is in summer. It is made to be opened, being one which opens onto the back garden, which is adjacent to the current car park. In your letter dated July 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 your representative tells me that 'timetables can be arranged so that there is no need for additional trains to wait outside the station, therefore there will be no increase in idling trains outside your property'. What is ignored here is that the site where trains currently idle just *outside* the main part of the station, will be the site of land *inside* the station once it has been expanded. So trains stopping to pick up passengers will be behind my garden (which is tiny and creates no buffer zone) and in fact nearer to my property than trains currently idling *outside* the main station. The increased frequency of trains which is proposed will mean more noise and disturbance *unless* serious measures are taken to address and mitigate this. There is no space to accommodate bunds. Tree

planting behind the garden would be welcome if there is thought to be space for this. However I would want to know that this would help.

2. **Consultation.** I explained that I had experienced repeated trouble accessing anyone via the consultation hotline. CRC say in response, 'An extensive public consultation exercise had taken place including exhibitions, newsletters, info-mails and a website. A hotline has been made available so that residents can contact a dedicated consultation team.' The 'extensive public consultation' seemed to me more a presentation of plans than a consultation, and the hotline is the very one I tried to ring several times over several months before anyone got back to me. Referring to 'continued consultation with local residents' CRC say, '...including a meeting held for North Oxford residents of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010'. I attended this meeting, which was extremely crowded. It was focussed on issues further north and did not in any way address concerns raised by me as a resident of Rewley Park, adjacent to the actual station. The meeting being packed and vocal, I had no opportunity to speak or otherwise represent my area, although I had attended hoping to have the chance to do so.
3. **Noise.** In response to my concerns about noise CRC seem to be claiming that because noise levels are already high around my property, additional noise will make no difference! This can't be true, as increased frequencies of trains will mean more times when there is noise over each day.
4. **Vibration.** I objected on grounds of our quality of life, not damage to my property. I accept there will be no damage to my property; I would not expect there to be! My concern is that our living room and one bedroom face the railway line, and vibration affects us in these rooms in particular, as well as in the garden, which is situated to the rear of the property. One bedroom and the living room is half of our little house! I am glad to read that mitigating measures will be used – but object that it is acceptable to CRC that 'vibration levels will, at worst, be limited to 'adverse comments possible'. If I make an adverse comment it is because my quality of life will have been adversely affected! These little houses are very expensive. I work long hard hours to pay the mortgage and feel strongly that we do not deserve adverse impacts from developments in this vicinity.
5. I am glad to read that there will be no adverse impact in terms of local air quality. However I would like to understand how this can be, since the new trains are not going to be electric.
6. Loss of light. The new station facility does not just replace existing platforms, but builds a new line closer to our property than the

existing one. Therefore there will surely be a need to construct a new platform, on the site of the existing parcels depot? And surely there will be a need for some form of building behind the new platform? In winter the sun is low over the back but we get some welcome rays into the house in the afternoons, and I want to know that we will not lose these.

Thank you for the information about claiming for compensation should noise and disturbance increase here. I sincerely hope this will not be necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Sushila Dhall