

MIMS DAVIES MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Becky Lumlock
Route Managing Director, Wessex
Network Rail

Andy Mellors
Managing Director
South Western Railway

November 2018

Dear Managing Directors

I am pleased, as the Member of Parliament for Eastleigh, Hedge End and the villages to support the application to secure funding through the Access for All (AfA) programme towards access improvements at Hedge End station.

There has been a significant level of development in Hedge End over the past decade, and as a result, footfall at this station has increased substantially, with a population now well exceeding 20,000, and more development is on the way. It is therefore incredibly concerning to me and many of my constituents that Hedge End Station has no ramp for train access or step free access coverage.

Hedge End has also seen a considerable increase in local business space, being home to hundreds of local businesses large and small, including large M&S, Sainsbury's and Next stores that see people travelling in from all over the region and further afield both to work as well as to make the most of the local shopping experiences.

The nearest stations for step free access and for more facilities is stated as being either 'Fareham' or 'Eastleigh'. Unsurprisingly that isn't much comfort to my constituents living in Hedge End and all of those who visit for work or leisure who have concerns over access to this station or the trains using it.

Therefore, and bearing in mind my points above, I would strongly urge that the funding request put forward for access improvements to Hedge End Station is granted, particularly given that in principle, third party funding has been secured to a future access improvement scheme at this station.

Yours ever
Mims

Mims Davies MP
Member of Parliament for Eastleigh

Member of Parliament for the Eastleigh Constituency