

GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL

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8th April 2025.

FAO Integrated Transport Team

Dear officers

Great Bedwyn Parish Council wish to register an official complaint about the recent works carried out at Great Bedwyn Train Station, in conjunction with Great Western Railways. (?)

Due to the long-standing issues with train station parking at Great Bedwyn and the resultant congestion that it creates in surrounding roads, the Parish Council feel the project is mis-guided and not required.

The net result of losing five parking spaces for apparent bus connectivity improvements is unacceptable.

Looking at the new design in-situ it appears that buses will still need to pull up on the road, and that the new area has been created as a forecourt area just for bus passengers to stand on whilst waiting for the buses to arrive and for cycles to park, although the cycle rack has not yet been installed.

We question the need for this in the view of the five lost parking spaces.

We request that Wiltshire Council take considerable time on site at Great Bedwyn train station to review this project and how additional much needed parking spaces can be created.

We suggest that you look at the old siding area with a view to extending parking into this area. Further options would be to look at either end of the current parking area including the area where the old steps were located.

To replace the five lost spaces, the creation of ten new spaces would be needed, to allow for the loss of five on-road parallel parking spaces as part of the alterations.

If the Parish Council and the residents of Great Bedwyn had been consulted; we would have been able to advise you that this project was not an improvement to the area and what was really needed for residents and visitors, whether they be train, bus or car users.

The On-demand bus service which serves Great Bedwyn is not fit for purpose for our parishioners and whilst it may be an improvement to other rural communities in the area, this cannot be said for Great Bedwyn.

We have recent evidence of a parishioner needing to get to Marlborough for an appointment. She booked a bus at 10.20am which arrived at 10.50am. The Wiltshire Connect website was frozen at this time so she could not check updates and due to being in a rural area there was no phone signal.

A return at 1.20pm was booked, which arrived at 1.50pm, and she returned home at 2.15pm. This total journey was 4 hours and 15 minutes for a simple appointment.

This is just one example we have received locally.

One of our Councillors, Cllr Helen Cooper has already been in contact with Steve Saunders on many occasions to highlight the issues we face in Great Bedwyn, as well as recent communications with Kirsty Rose on this specific matter. Our Ward Cllr Stewart Wheeler is also aware. Cllr Cooper has also contacted Wiltshire Council direct many times over issues with transport in Great Bedwyn.

We urge you to consider this project again in light of our comments above and re-visit Great Bedwyn in person to revise the current arrangements with a view to replacing the lost parking spaces and increasing parking where possible. Representatives from the Parish Council and Bedwyn Passenger Trains group would be happy to meet with you to discuss the issues in greater detail.

Yours faithfully.

Mrs Clair Wilkinson

Clerk to the Council

CC Great Bedwyn Parish Council

CC Ward Cllr Wheeler