



THE TEDDINGTON SOCIETY

From:- Brian Holder, Leader,
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8th April 2010

Mr Iain Coucher,
Chief Executive, Network Rail,
Kings Place, 90 York Way,
London, N1 9AG

Dear Mr Coucher,

Pea Green chainlink and barbed wire fence at Teddington Station – and removal of a section of historic iron railings without any form of consultation

Dr Vince Cable, Teddington's MP, has taken this issue up with you at our request, and has passed me a copy of your 29th March letter which contains a number of statements which do not accord with what we know about the station and its environs. I wonder if you would be kind enough to provide more detail about the basis of those statements?

In particular:-

1. Alleged high incidence of railway trespass

Teddington Station is a fully open station with a variety of types of fencing along its various borders. Station safety and security are always discussed at both public and executive committee meetings of the local Police Liaison Group, and I cannot recollect any cases of trespass being reported. One issue that is regularly discussed, however, is the inadequate and poorly maintained wire fencing around the electricity power substation. This has been the subject of discussion with National Rail, Southwest Trains, and Rail Police staff, and better fencing was regularly requested. As you can see from the photographs, it is still in poor condition.

2. Alleged high incidence of vandalism

There were very occasional cases of minor vandalism a few years ago, but nothing has been reported in recent years. If graffiti is regarded as vandalism, as it should be, we do have some minor graffiti on the walls of the electricity power substation from time to time. The Teddington Society's Environment Group has regular litterpicks in and around the station, and also paints out graffiti where it occurs, including in the past, on the substation walls (this was done by special arrangement with station staff, but more recently specialist NR/SWT teams have taken over that job). It would be helpful if you could provide full details of the high level of vandalism that you say occurs in the vicinity of Teddington Station.

Dr Cable refers to the poor condition of the main footbridge glazing which has remained unchanged for over 20 years. The windows were re-glazed with perspex some 20 or more years ago. Within days of re-glazing, many sheets of perspex were stolen, allegedly for use as cloches, but that was never proven, and no-one was ever caught. If the state of this bridge is recorded as recent vandalism, that would not be correct.

3. Installation of pallisade fencing

Pallisade fencing has not been installed.

4. Standard fencing across the railway network

This pea green wire mesh and barbed wire security fencing may be being used in various parts of the rail network, but not at local Loopline stations. Kingston has metal or wooden pallisade type fencing, and Norbiton has completely new two metre high galvanised fencing all around the station, and most other stations retain their traditional fencing. This wire mesh fencing would be acceptable as a replacement for the present inadequate fencing around the electricity power substation, as it is not visible from the road. Is there any reason why the unwanted wire mesh fence and posts along Station Road between the southern footbridge and the cycle racks should not be relocated around the electricity substation to make it secure and thus prevent graffiti?

5. Hard copy of this letter and photographs

I will put a hard copy of this letter and photographs in the post.

6. More information required?

Please let me know if you require any more information. I am a member of Passenger Focus's Rail User Group which meets with Network Rail and Southwest Trains management teams on a regular basis. Unfortunately, I will be abroad on 10th June when the next joint meeting takes place, so will not be able to raise this fencing issue in person. I would hope, however, that a solution acceptable to all can be found before that date. I would be happy to attend an on site meeting if that would be of help, but am away Monday to Thursday next week – a colleague could attend in my place, if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Brian A Holder

cc. The Baroness Hilton of Eggardon, QPM, Chair Teddington Society
Dr Vincent Cable, MP
Mrs Jocelyn Pearson, Passenger Focus
Teddington Councillors
Dr Tony Dempsey, Chair Windsor Lines Passengers' Association