

Informal meeting with representatives from Network Rail

We met with representatives from Network Rail last Wednesday 23/10/2024 regarding the Ty Gwyn Caravan Park and Pen Uchaf Caravan Park (Lyons Lyndale) railway crossing proposals.

The meeting was to discuss the planned train service improvements and broader benefits, the level crossing safety risks, and their early ideas regarding creating a safer and more accessible way to cross the railway, ideally aligned with local Active Travel aspirations.

Network Rail reported that Transport for Wales are planning to increase the frequency of trains that use the line and are planning a direct route from Llandudno to Liverpool in the near future. To enable this to go ahead the two level crossings in Towyn will need to be removed and replaced with an accessible bridge that crosses the railway line.

Network Rail are proposing to install a steel accessible bridge closer to the Ty Gwyn Caravan park which would mean that users of the Pen Uchaf crossing would have to walk further to cross the railway. They are proposing to install a 3-meter-wide bridge with steps and an accessible ramp which aligns with the local active travel plans. The placement of the bridge is likely to be installed in front of Ty Gwyn Caravan Park as the sea defence wall is in situ therefore the structure would not obstruct their view potentially, whereas if the structure was placed further down it towards Pen Uchaf it would obstruct the views of the Pen Cae housing estate.

Network Rail advised that they have already contacted the owners of both caravan parks, and have also recently shared/discussed the proposed improvement/scheme with Conwy CBC Officers/Councillors.

- The next stage will be a public consultation.
- Network Rail have promised to keep the Town Council fully updated throughout the whole process.
- We also took the opportunity to discuss the legality of Sand Bank Road railway bridge in regards to the lack of accessibility. Network Rail have stated that they will raise our concerns and look into undertaking a census data collection exercise to fully understand the demographics, foot flow, vulnerabilities and accessibility needs of the bridge users.