

ACTION STATIONS

BINGLEY and CROSSFLATTS

Mr xxxx
Network Rail

April 2018

Dear xxxxx,

Bingley Railway Station, BD16

We are a "Friends of" Group, who have adopted Bingley and Crossflatts Railway Stations under Northern Rail's Adoption Scheme.

We are writing to you to express our disappointment in your decision not to undertake any repair work to the buildings and infrastructure at Bingley Station.

There are 2 buildings at the front of the Station that used to be commercially let but have not been in use for some time. They have been left to fall into disrepair, with water ingress damage from leaking roofs and rat infestations. We understand that these buildings are to be let on a tenant-repairing lease but in their current condition, it would be uneconomical for any prospective tenant to take these on.

Your decision not to undertake any work on these buildings until 2019 appears reckless to myself. You are losing valuable rental income at 2 prime spots in our town centre. Further deterioration of the buildings will occur, adding to the works that need completing if any further delay occurs.

To the back of the left-hand side building, there is a wall that is already beginning to fall down and huge cracks appearing. I would suggest that this needs urgent attention as its instability will lead to further degradation of the main structure of the building. There is also a potential danger to human life, should a member of the public venture around here.

Some works have recently been undertaken by Northern Rail, such as the painting of the waiting rooms and the painting of the ceiling in the main vestibule of the station entrance. However, since there are leaks coming in from the roof, in both these areas the painting has been spoiled. It appears impossible to undertake any remedial works in the station unless the structural work is addressed first.

Other areas of concern are:

1. Trees growing out of the waiting room roof
2. Rising damp in the pedestrian tunnel that leads to one of the platforms – we had intended to brighten up the Station with artwork in this gloomy tunnel but its current degradation is preventing this.
3. Trees & vegetation growing out of the tunnels on either side of the station
4. Vegetation on the main platform canopies that are damaging the historic glazing

Bingley has recently formed a new Town Council, who have been in operation for 2 years. Their aim is to regenerate our town centre and improve tourism; making much more out of our heritage and of the 3 and 5 Rise Locks, which are situated only 300m away from the Station. We are working closely with them and want to put Bingley on the map, making it a destination, rather than a place just to pass through.

Many projects have already commenced in the town, including the renovation of the adjacent Station Master's House, the development of a 5 Rise Locks garden in the grounds of the Station and erection of notice boards to boost tourism.

However, we feel that Network Rail is letting our town down. Visitors arrive at a station which is enclosed in a building of disrepair

Bingley Railway Station was opened, in its current location, in 1892; it originally existed as a wooden structure, situated just below the 3 Rise Locks further down the line. It was an important transport system at the time, linking Bingley and Keighley to the cities of Leeds and Bradford, and linking the railway network to the canal network. It remains a vital part of our town, being highly used for commuters travelling to work. The building erected in 1892, although not a listed building, is within the designated Conservation Zone of Bingley. It has changed very little since 1892 and we feel strongly that this historic building should be preserved and not left to its current neglect.

I look forward to hearing from you and would be very happy to accompany you on a walk-about around the Station.

Yours sincerely



Derrick Hodgson

Chair of Actions Station (Bingley & Crossflatts)

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