



Bleasby Railway Station

A QUEST FOR A BETTER RAIL SERVICE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Strategic Context

- ▶ The objective is to generate economic growth in the Nottingham – Lincoln corridor for a more flexible workforce, providing easier access to work, education and training in the region by upgrading the railway line that connects Nottingham, Newark and Lincoln.

Stakeholder Board

- ▶ The government wants to upgrade regional public transport systems to bring them closer to the standard of that in London by 2030. It reiterated the need to improve transport infrastructure across the UK, which is skewed towards the South of England.

Michael Gove, February 2022

- ▶ Climate change and the urgent need to reduce emissions

What Bleasby Needs

- ▶ An online and paper-based survey of 350 households was undertaken in Jan/Feb 2022 and generated 183 responses (53%).
Key findings:
 - ▶ The EMR services to and from Bleasby do not meet the needs of commuters, shoppers or those seeking to spend leisure time in Nottingham at weekends
 - ▶ Adding Bleasby as a stop for trains that pass through Bleasby already will go a significant way towards remedying this situation
 - ▶ A key additional need is a late evening train from Nottingham to Bleasby on Friday/Saturday nights
 - ▶ Train guards should *always* collect payment for tickets and be visible on route

Community usage and view on current rail services - I

▶ CURRENT USAGE

- ▶ 31% use the service at least once per week
- ▶ 24% use it monthly

- ▶ 56% of respondents said that they had to travel to Lowdham (and 31% go to Fiskerton) to get the train they need

- ▶ There is concern that demand from Bleasby is not reflected in fare collections: 61% of respondents stated that they were only **occasionally asked** for payment or to show a ticket (18% said they had **never** been asked)

* Source: Bleasby village survey January/February 2022

Community usage and view on current rail services - II

▶ NON-USERS

- ▶ 17% never use the service
- ▶ Of these, 40% do not use the service because the trains are not available at the times they need

* Source: Bleasby village survey January/February 2022

Community usage and view of current rail services - III

- ▶ Bleasby residents would travel to the destinations below more, and therefore contribute to higher economic growth in the region, if the service was more frequent:

Destination	% survey respondents
Nottingham	93
Newark	57
Lincoln	50
London	45
Derby	20
Other	11

* Source: Bleasby village survey January/February 2022

Community usage and view of current rail services - IV

- ▶ 71% of respondents did not regard the absence of a station car park as a disincentive to use the rail service – residents want to leave their cars at home and just use the train
- ▶ Those who are forced to drive to Lowdham and Fiskerton to get their required train report the following:
 - ▶ Confrontations with local residents aggrieved as parking spaces taken up for the whole day
 - ▶ Fiskerton only has 14 spaces and is frequently full. There are no footpaths to Fiskerton either

* Source: Bleasby village survey January/February 2022

Community usage and view of current rail services - V

- ▶ From the many comments submitted, these are the principal issues identified by survey respondents...
 - ▶ Need more frequent trains, especially those which make sense for commuters wishing to reach Nottingham for 0830 or 0900 starts, and return to Bleasby late afternoon/early evening (e.g. the Nottingham to Newark trains departing 1634 and 1734)
 - ▶ Need a late return service, around 2300, from Nottingham, especially on Fridays and Saturdays
 - ▶ Increase capacity at busy times: e.g. when there are football fixtures in Nottingham
 - ▶ People living in the village who cannot drive face “*isolation or have to leave*” given infrequent trains and the paucity of bus services. Expensive taxis are not the solution.
 - ▶ Poor connectivity with London services ex Nottingham
 - ▶ Ticket issue/checking often non-existent (many cannot use online ticketing)
 - ▶ Guards need to be visible to ensure customer safety, a key concern for women and girls
 - ▶ Need some through-trains to Lincoln

* Source: Bleasby village survey January/February 2022

Towards an ideal timetable

- ▶ We are aware of the complexities of scheduling additional services for Bleasby, so the following suggested improvements to Bleasby stopping times have been based on existing services that are known to pass through Bleasby. These, of course, would be *in addition* to the current timetable.
- ▶ However, **a key missing is a late train from Nottingham on a Friday and Saturday**. The latest train operating in the direction of Newark on Fridays is 2237. On Saturday it's 2131. Both are too early to be of any real value to those who have been there for an evening out. The only alternatives for residents are a bus to Thurgarton and a walk of some 35 minutes (1.8 miles to the village church) with some unlit and unpaved sections, or taxi.

What additions to the current timetable would better meet our needs?

- ▶ WEST BOUND Monday to Friday (in addition to the existing timetable)

TIME (based on trains already passing through Bleasby)	% survey respondents
0720	34
0830	39
0900	35
1820	33

* Source: Bleasby village survey January/February 2022

What additions to the current timetable would better meet our needs?

- ▶ WEST BOUND Weekends (in addition to the existing timetable)

TIME (based on trains already passing through Bleasby)	% survey respondents
0950	40
1215	32
1300	34
1900	45
2220	32

* Source: Bleasby village survey January/February 2022

What additions to the current timetable would better meet our needs?

- ▶ EAST BOUND Monday to Friday (in addition to the existing timetable)

TIME (based on trains already passing through Bleasby)	% survey respondents
0900	37
1630	34
1800	39
1900	31
2300	37

* Source: Bleasby village survey January/February 2022

What additions to the current timetable would better meet our needs?

- ▶ EAST BOUND Weekends (in addition to the existing timetable)

TIME (based on trains already passing through Bleasby)	% survey respondents
0900	30
1100	31
1730	34
1830	34
2030	37

* Source: Bleasby village survey January/February 2022

Appendix – rank order of desired new stops, utilising trains that are already passing through Bleasby

▼ WEST Bound WEEKENDS 19:00	45.36%	83
▼ WEST Bound WEEKENDS 09:50	40.44%	74
▼ EAST Bound Mon - Fri 18:00	39.34%	72
▼ WEST Bound Mon - Fri 08:30	39.34%	72
▼ EAST Bound Mon - Fri 23:00	37.16%	68
▼ EAST Bound Mon - Fri 9:00	36.61%	67
▼ EAST Bound WEEKENDS 20:30	36.61%	67
▼ WEST Bound Mon - Fri 09:00	34.97%	64
▼ EAST Bound WEEKENDS 17:30	34.43%	63
▼ EAST Bound WEEKENDS 18:30	34.43%	63
▼ WEST Bound WEEKENDS 13:00	34.43%	63
▼ EAST Bound Mon - Fri 16:30	33.88%	62
▼ WEST Bound Mon - Fri 07:20	33.88%	62
▼ WEST Bound Mon - Fri 18:20	33.33%	61
▼ WEST Bound WEEKENDS 22:20	32.24%	59
▼ WEST Bound WEEKENDS 12:15	31.69%	58
▼ EAST Bound Mon - Fri 19:00	31.15%	57
▼ EAST Bound WEEKENDS 11:00	30.60%	56