

Proposal for 2022/23 Belper Town Council Budget

To become grant funder of last resort for railway building to be built on Field Lane Car Park

This proposal follows the withdrawal of the Department for Transport (DfT) Grant of £100,000 for the provision of a building adjacent to Belper Railway Station during the 2021/22 budget period. The building was intended to provide a waiting room with refreshment facility, toilets and railway office; the station then becoming a staffed location.

The DfT has not indicated exactly when this grant will be paid or if the grant will be paid in its entirety. Possible funding may occur in the 2022/23 budget period but for Amber Valley Borough Council to incorporate the building's presence in the groundworks construction phase of the car park extension there has to some surety that funding will be available. By taking on this commitment BTC will ensure that the railway building is fully incorporated in the car park scheme. Work is expected to start next year.

The sum of £100,000 to be sourced as BTC sees fit; via public works loan or other means.

Derbyshire County Council have informally suggested that there may be an element of matched funding from other railway related grant sources. Once BTC adopts this proposal the following timeline would be:

- Notification to AVBC of BTC provision as grant funder of last resort and a contract relationship established.
- DCC to be notified and work to establish alternative grant funding from DfT, Community Rail or any other source to commence.
- East Midlands Railway to be notified so that negotiations with the relevant national and local government bodies can be started.

This is a preliminary paper and follows on from BTC decisions to pursue this opportunity.