

Greater Anglia

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Mr Jeremy Smith
The Old Police Station
Station Approach
Saxmundham
Suffolk
IP17 1BW

18 July 2019

Case Ref: GA190716-BBGL

Dear Mr Smith,

Thanks for the letter you sent to our Managing Director Jamie Burles regarding the station building at Saxmundham station.

Jamie has asked me to get an update on the situation for you and provide direct feedback. I have spoken to our asset management and they have confirmed that they have previously been in direct dialogue with the council.

Following the fire on 12th February last Year, the building was inspected and due to the danger caused by the structure it was taken down carefully. This was an 'following agreement from East Suffolk Council to a position that it was considered safe to continue operations and the building was fenced off. Due to the condition and necessary repairs the first thought was to demolish the structure completely, which Abellio Greater Anglia has permitted development rights to do so. However due to the buildings importance to the local community we decided to see if we could find the funds to partially restore the building to a single story building, rather than the original reconfiguration which is unaffordable and not required as a railway building.

Following extensive financial exercises, and looking at other opportunities it was decided that if the building restoration was combined with the proposed car park works, and station platform significant maintenance works, the funding needed could be secured. This has meant that the other two schemes have had to be brought forward and developed in order to gain the funding needed.

East Suffolk Council has also advised that the building restoration will be subject to full planning consideration, which has been submitted, but this involved far more information than we had, the car park and station already having permitted development status.

It is proposed the works will start in late autumn of this year. We are monitoring the structure however due to the existing condition the structure is suffering no further damage as there will be extensive rebuilding and renovation once the works start. If you wish to meet with one of our management team at the site then I would be happy to arrange this for you.



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Thanks once again for getting in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'sfarrell'.

Steven Farrell
Senior Customer Contacts Team
Greater Anglia