

Thanet Parkway Railway Station

Consultation booklet



Conceptual station image

Public consultation period:
25 January to 19 March 2017

kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway

Kent County Council working with:

southeastern



Foreword

Welcome to Kent County Council's (KCC) second public consultation on Thanet Parkway.

Since 2010, KCC has been promoting the building of a new parkway station in Thanet on the existing rail line between Minster and Ramsgate.

Long commuting times to London are often seen as a barrier for new business investment in the area. Thanet Parkway railway station will complement high speed rail, bringing Thanet to within about an hour's journey time of London, thereby improving the perception of East Kent as a place for investment, particularly at Discovery Park Enterprise Zone, the former Manston Airport site and other development sites proposed in the draft Thanet Local Plan.

The improved rail connectivity to London and across the County will allow local residents to access a wide range of job opportunities.

In 2015 we ran a consultation on the initial design for a new station. Your feedback helped to inform the outline design on which we are now seeking your views. I believe this scheme continues to offer a real opportunity for local people and businesses and would like to know what you think. I therefore welcome your participation in the Thanet Parkway public consultation and invite you to share your views with us.



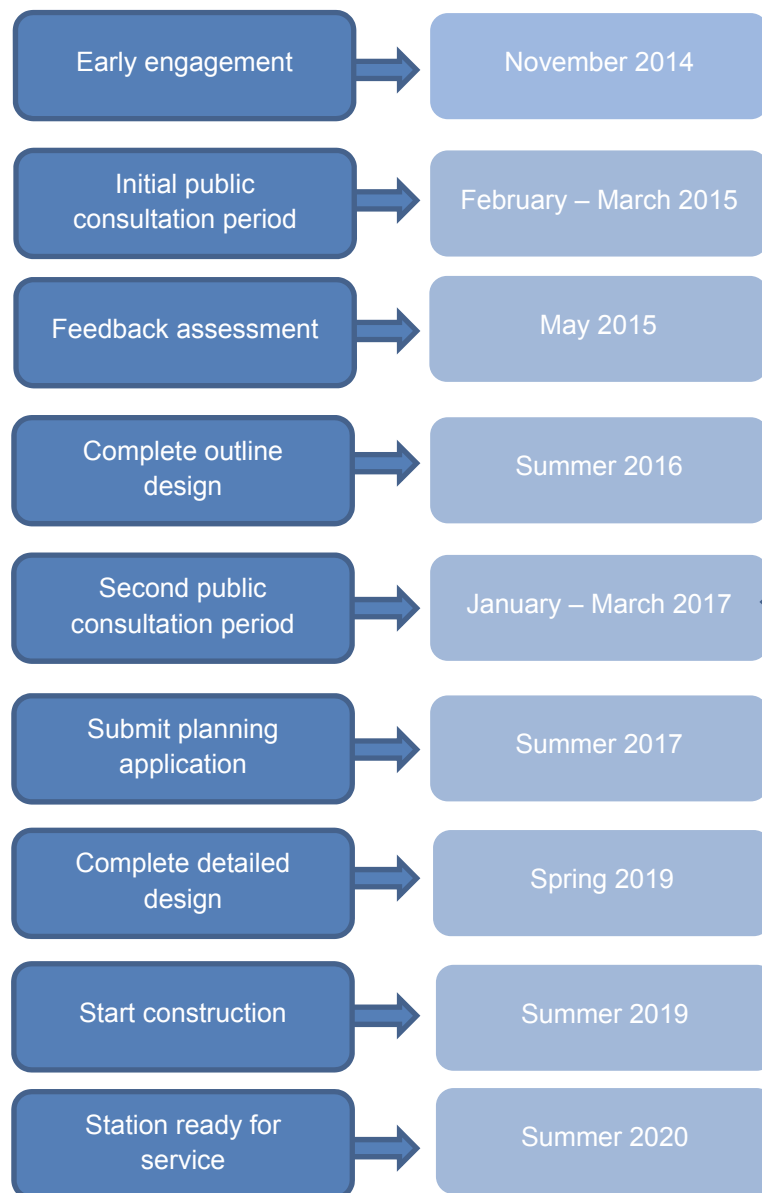
Matthew Balfour

Matthew Balfour
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Kent County Council

This booklet helps to explain how our proposals have developed since the first consultation in 2015 and how you can provide your feedback to this current consultation. The booklet contains eight key sections:

1. This consultation	1
2. What are we proposing?	2
3. Why are we proposing this?	4
4. Proposed station facilities	5
5. Proposed look of the station	6
6. Proposed road access	9
7. Proposed car parking facilities	10
8. Proposed public transport, walking and cycling access	11
9. Have your say	12

1. This Consultation



Previous Consultation

An eight week public consultation on the initial high level design, impacts and benefits of Thanet Parkway ran from 2nd February to the 27th March 2015. Seven consultation events were held across East Kent, and were supported by a range of consultation documents. Overall, 492 questionnaire responses were received and the responses have helped to shape the outline design and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) work. Throughout this document, we highlight where feedback from this initial consultation has influenced the outline design of the station.

Since the last consultation, KCC's project team has engaged with key stakeholders, including impacted landowners affected by the proposals, Thanet District Council, Southeastern and Network Rail to gather further feedback.

A full consultation report from the previous consultation is available online at kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway

This Consultation (25th January to 19th March 2017)

This consultation is taking place before we submit a planning application for the new station. We want to gather your views on the outline design of the station, including the proposed station facilities, the look of the station, road access, car parking facilities and access by public transport, walking and cycling.

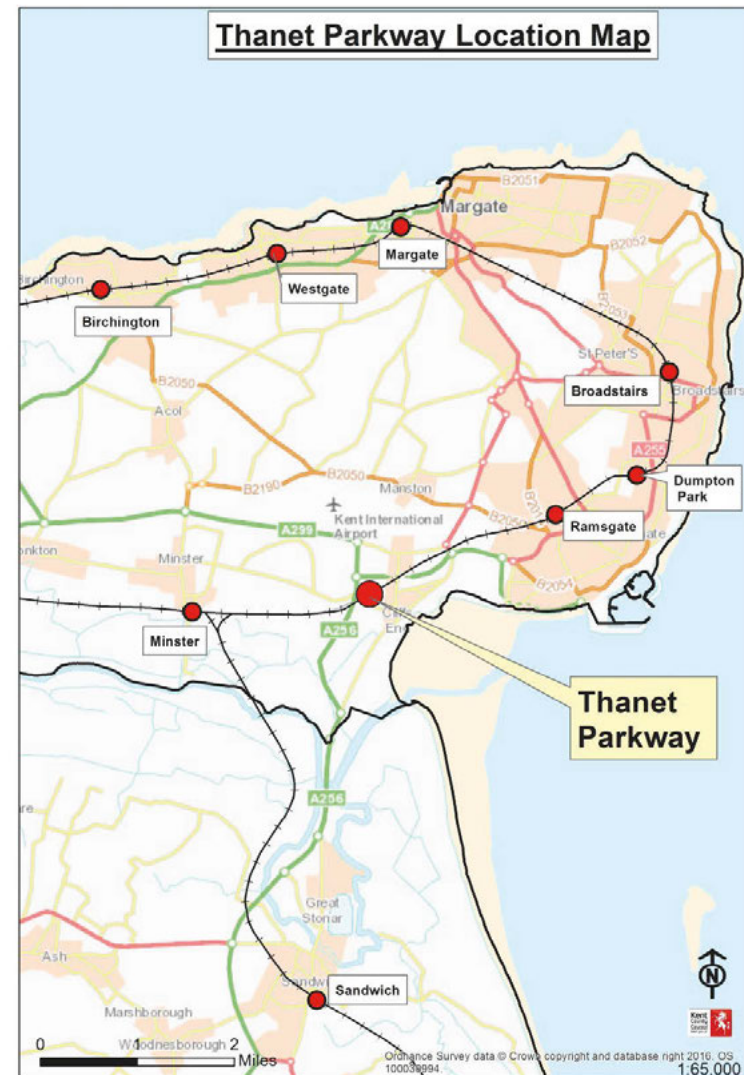
The Thanet Parkway consultation is separate to Thanet District Council's public consultation on its *Draft Thanet Local Plan to 2031 - Preferred options revisions* (19th January – 17th March 2017).

2. What are we proposing?

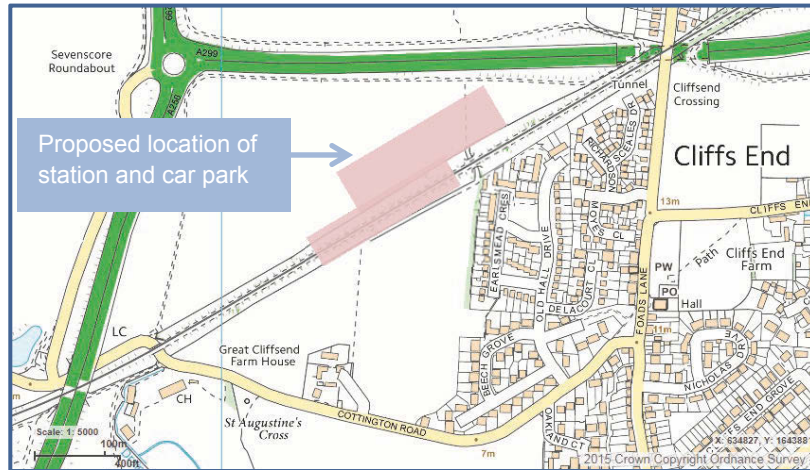
The proposed new Thanet Parkway railway station will be located on the Ashford International to Ramsgate line, south of the former Manston Airport site and just to the west of the village of Cliffsend. It will be sited between Minster and Ramsgate railway stations, and will be served by both Mainline and High Speed trains. The station will offer good transport links to the surrounding highway network via the A299 Hengist Way, and provide local connections for pedestrians and cyclists.

The proposed parkway station will widen employment opportunities for Thanet residents by providing improved rail access to London and other locations in the county. Thanet Parkway will encourage growth in Thanet and East Kent, and will also cope with the growth in rail usage from existing and future communities.

The station will be part funded by the Local Growth Fund (LGF) through the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) along with a contribution from KCC. An application has been made to Network Rail and the Department for Transport's New Stations Fund for the remaining funding, a decision on which is expected to be announced by Government in April 2017.



2. What are we proposing?



The design shown in this drawing is illustrative and may be subject to change in later stages of the scheme development.

3. Why are we proposing this?

Improving rail capacity within Thanet has been a priority for Kent County Council since 2010 when a proposal for a Parkway Station was first introduced in *Growth without Gridlock: A transport delivery plan for Kent* and the *Local Transport Plan for Kent (2011-2016)*. It remains a priority in KCC's draft *Local Transport Plan 4: Delivering Growth without Gridlock 2016-2031*.

The new station complements the Journey Time Improvement Scheme (JTI) which is upgrading the railway line between Ashford and Ramsgate to reduce travel times from Thanet to London to around an hour.

East Kent has great potential for new investment but long commuting times to London and poor connections to the rest of Kent have meant that it has not always been the first choice for new business investment.

The new station will also enable and unlock the potential to create local jobs for local people through the inward investment of businesses and companies choosing to locate in Thanet due to the improved access to rail services that a new station will provide. It will also increase the employment opportunities for Thanet residents, by providing improved rail access to London and other locations in the county.

A new parkway station will provide much needed additional transport capacity to support the new homes and jobs identified in Thanet District Council's Draft Local Plan and reduce the need for car usage.

Providing car parking facilities at Thanet Parkway will also help to reduce the level of parking demand at Ramsgate station where there is limited parking and so help reduce congestion on local roads.



4. Proposed Station Facilities



Feedback on the proposed station facilities can be provided via **question 5 on the consultation questionnaire**, which can be found at kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway or alternatively a hard copy can be provided upon request.

You Said, We Did

The 2015 consultation found that the most important facilities for respondents were platform lighting, CCTV and real time journey information. We have taken these comments on board when developing the design and have introduced lighting and CCTV cameras for each platform. Customer information displays and passenger help points will also be provided.

The two platform station has been designed to be easy to navigate and minimise impact on the local area, whilst still providing a range of benefits to East Kent.

The station entrance will be located on the north side adjacent to the car park with platforms accessible by stairs, lift and pedestrian bridge. Waiting shelters, CCTV and passenger information points will be provided on each platform along with ticket machines and a help point to provide remote assistance by intercom.

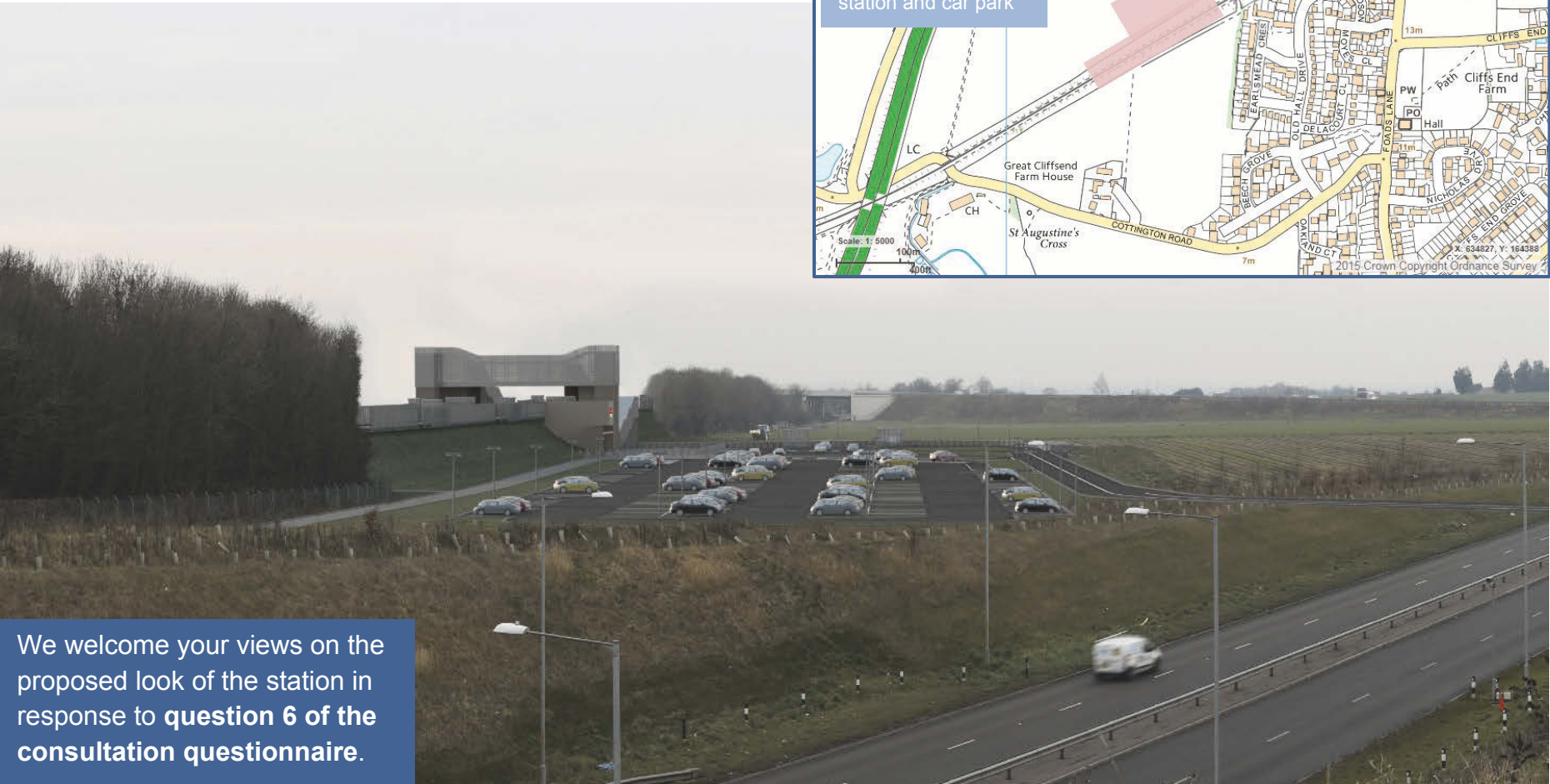
The station is designed to be unstaffed and managed remotely through the use of CCTV and intercom. However, a station building could be added in the future to include facilities such as a coffee shop, toilets, waiting room and a ticket office or facilities to accommodate station staff. Once operational, it will be for the train operating company to decide on staffing levels.

5. Proposed Look of the Station



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Image 1 – Proposed view from Public Right of Way TR32



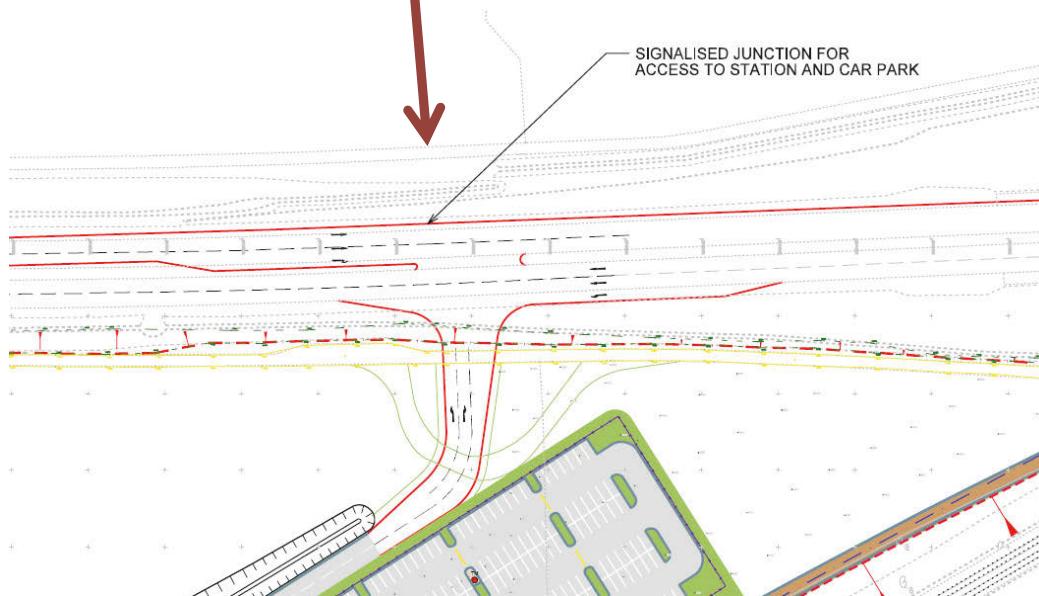
5. Proposed Look of the Station

Image 2 – Proposed view from St Augustine's Cross



We welcome your views on the proposed look of the station in response to **question 6 of the consultation questionnaire**.

6. Proposed Road Access



You Said, We Did

Overall 57% of people agreed with the proposed access arrangements in the previous consultation; however concerns were raised in regard to safety and increased congestion. Our design consultants have taken these concerns into account when developing the proposal. Loss of agricultural land was also a key concern in the 2015 consultation; therefore, the station, car park and access road have been repositioned to reduce the overall amount of land required.

A series of access road arrangements have been considered as part of the station design.

The preferred option is to provide a two-way single access road from Hengist Way (A299). A signalised T-junction with dedicated turning lanes will provide access from the A299.

This option enables the station and car park to be close to the main road and minimises the amount of land required for the scheme, therefore reducing the loss of agricultural land.

We welcome your views on the proposed road access in response to **question 7 of the consultation questionnaire**.

7. Proposed Parking Facilities

You Said, We Did

Feedback from the 2015 consultation showed the most important car park facilities were CCTV, lighting and a bus stop. These have all been included within the current outline design.

The proposed station will include 300 parking spaces offering both long and short stay parking.

The car park will also include disabled bays, a dedicated area for motorcycles, spaces offering electric car charging points and cycle storage. The car park will also have lighting and CCTV cameras to aid security.

There will also be a dedicated area for pick up/drop off and a reserved taxi rank.

Charges for parking at the station will be decided by Kent County Council following submission of the planning application.



We would welcome your views on the proposed car parking facilities in response to **question 8 of the consultation questionnaire**.

8. Proposed Public Transport, Walking and Cycling Access



You Said, We Did

Previous feedback flagged up the importance of providing good public transport links with high quality and safe pedestrian and cycle access to the station. Pedestrian and cycle access will be provided from Cliffsend village but these are subject to further design alterations.

We would welcome your views on the proposed public transport, walking and cycling access in response to **question 9 of the consultation questionnaire**.

The station will be well-connected with local bus routes, offer a park and ride facility and have cycle and pedestrian access (as shown in the map on page 10).

We have talked with the local bus company to understand how to connect the station to the surrounding towns and business parks. We are also working with our highway design consultants and Public Rights of Way officers to identify the best option for safely connecting the station to existing Public Rights of Way and cycle networks in the area.

9. Have your say

Your feedback is essential to help us shape our proposal prior to submission of a planning application and ensure it best suits the needs of your local community and local businesses. Whether you support the proposal or have concerns about it, we want to hear your comments and views.

You can provide your views by completing the questionnaire which is available:

- Online at kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway
- By emailing thanetparkway@kent.gov.uk for a paper copy
- At the consultation events listed on this page

Want more information?

Our project website also has a number of consultation documents that will give you handy information to read before you complete the questionnaire.

The website includes:

- This booklet
- Draft Equality Impact Assessment
- Alternative options analysis report
- Potential environmental impacts report.

We also have six consultation events taking place across East Kent where you can drop in and talk to our team.

Please provide your comments by 19th March 2017.

Consultation Event Venue	Date	Time
Cliffsend Village Hall Foads Lane, Cliffsend, Ramsgate, CT12 5JH	7/2/2016 2/3/2017	15:00-20:00 15:00-20:00
Discovery Park Enterprise Zone Magellan Suite, Innovation House, Discovery Park, CT13 9FF	8/2/2017	10:00-17:00
Acol Village Hall The Street, Acol, CT7 0JA	20/2/2017	15:00-20:00
Minster-in-Thamet Library 4A Monkton Road, Minster, Ramsgate, CT12 4EA	23/2/2017	14:00-17:30
Ramsgate Railway Station Ticket Hall, Ramsgate, CT11 7RE	28/2/2017	15:00-19:30

Visit the scheme website at:

kent.gov.uk/thanetparkway

Email us: thanetparkway@kent.gov.uk

Write to us at:

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Thanet Parkway Public Consultation
Kent County Council

Alternative formats:

For any alternative formats of the consultation material, please email **alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk** or call 03000 421553 (text relay service number 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.