



What's happening?

Best practice at Farringdon: Section 61 agreements

Overview

As Network Rail transforms Farringdon station, noise from our construction work could have a major impact on our neighbours. This is especially true when works next to the railway can only be undertaken during night-time and weekend engineering hours – when train services aren't running.

To minimise this possibility, Network Rail and contractors Costain Laing O'Rourke have worked together to develop a section 61 consent management process that combines good community relations with meeting programme timescales. Section 61 consents are granted by the local authority and give permission for work that could involve noise or vibration.

From the outset we have prioritised good relations with the local authority, the London Borough of Islington (LBI). These efforts include regular, four-weekly site visits to review progress and the submission of six-monthly consent applications, to ensure that the consent takes account of changes to the programme. The preparation of the applications involves the whole project team to ensure that the complicated predictions can be compiled as efficiently as possible.

To complement these processes, the project works hard to engage with local residents and businesses – delivering proactive community relations – alongside monitoring

and investigating any complaints that are received.

Opportunities for innovation are sought out such as the use of 'Rentavent' panels and construction of movable noise screens and barriers.

Benefits

- Because of the relationship built with LBI, consent applications are granted quickly, including those for extended working hours when necessary.
- Complaints from neighbours relating to construction noise have been kept to a minimum, despite the demolition of a 12 storey building.

Targets & objectives

Farringdon SDC strategy: relations with the local community, effects on neighbours, governance and project management
Farringdon targets & objectives: no enforcement action for statutory nuisance or other legal non-compliance
CEEQUAL: nuisance to neighbours, relations with local community and stakeholders