

CLlr Sklavenitis Submitted a Freedom of Information request in a personal capacity to Sevenoaks District Council regarding the assessment of Hildenborough Train Station.

Below is a copy of the reply and the table of data on well connected train stations.

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 4:21 PM

To: Ioannis Sklavenitis <ioannis.sklavenitis@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: FOI 680 - 2026

Dear Ioannis

Thank you for your request received by Sevenoaks District Council on 22 September 2026.

In relation to your enquiry, please find the Council's response set out below.

Your enquiry and our response

1. Any report, briefing note, presentation or written officer advice prepared for, or considered by, members of the Council - including any advisory committee, Cabinet or Full Council - concerning the implications of the National Planning Policy Framework published on 17 August 2026.

Please see the attached chart which has been produced by SDC as part of an internal memo for Members relating to the August 2026 NPPF Publication. The assessment of whether a station is defined as well connected is based on normal weekday and throughout the daytime (i.e. not simply peak times)

Well-connected station: Railway stations and underground, tram and light rail stops located within a top 80 Travel to Work Area located partially or fully within England by Gross Value Added (GVA)⁷² and which, in the normal weekday timetable, are served (or have a reasonable prospect of being served due to planned upgrades or through agreement with the rail operator) throughout the daytime by at least four trains or trams per hour overall, or at least two trains or trams per hour in any one direction.

So, for Hildenborough, the chart suggests that even though it has 6 trains per hour, at peak times, it only has 2 trains overall rather than the required 4 per hour or 2 in any one direction. Thus, meaning Hildenborough does not satisfy the tests to be classed as well connected as set out within the NPPF.

2. Any list, table, map, dataset or written assessment identifying which railway stations within, or adjoining, Sevenoaks District do or do not meet the definition of a "well-connected station" in Annex B of that Framework, where Hildenborough is mentioned.

As above.

3. Any document falling within paragraphs 1 or 2 above that refers to Hildenborough railway station, whether by name or by station code HLB.

As above.

4. For the period from 1 January 2026: any correspondence between the Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Kent County Council, Southeastern or Network Rail concerning whether particular stations meet, or are expected to meet, that definition.

The chart we produced setting out which stations in and around the District was not published publicly, but was shared within an internal memo to Members in August, following the publication of the new NPPF. Other than this we have had no further correspondence on the definition of Well-connected stations between SDC and the above list of consultees.

5. Any Statement of Common Ground, or draft Statement of Common Ground, between the Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council that refers to rail connectivity, station service frequency or Hildenborough railway station.

[Statement of Common Ground \(Sevenoaks District Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council\) July 2026 | Sevenoaks District Council](#)

The signed SoCG is available at the above link and on our Evidence Base webpage, but it does not refer to rail connectivity/Hildenborough, other than at 9.3, when, in relation to the Sevenoaks DC growth strategy, it states that '*Brownfield grey belt is prioritised first and then grey belt adjacent to higher tier settlements or well-connected stations*'.

I trust the above information has been of assistance to you. Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Well-connected stations (normal service):

Station	Overall Number of Trains (Hourly)	>4 Trains (Hourly)	>2 Trains in One Direction (Hourly)	Well Connected?	Peak services (hourly)
Ashurst Station*	2	N	N	N	2
Bat and Ball Station	4	Y	Y	Y	4
Chelsfield Station*	4	Y	Y	Y	6
Cowden Station	2	N	N	N	2
Dunton Green Station	4	Y	Y	Y	4
Edenbridge Station	2	N	N	N	3
Edenbridge Town Station	2	N	N	N	2
Eynsford Station	4	Y	Y	Y	4
Farningham Road Station*	2	N	N	N	4
Hever Station	2	N	N	N	2
Hildenborough Station*	2	N	N	N	6
Kemsing Station	2	N	N	N	2
Knockholt Station*	4	Y	Y	Y	4
Leigh Station	2	N	N	N	3
Longfield Station*	4	Y	Y	Y	5
Otford Station	8	Y	Y	Y	11
Penshurst Station	2	N	N	N	3
Sevenoaks Station	12	Y	Y	Y	16
Shoreham Station	4	Y	Y	Y	4
Swanley Station	10	Y	Y	Y	17
Tonbridge Station*	10	Y	Y	Y	15

Based on all train departure times within one hour and on the same day

*Train Stations outside of the [District](#)