**From:** Andrew Haines
**Sent:** 12 June 2020
**Subject:** RE: Ash Vale step-free access

Michael,

Thanks for getting in touch. It was good to meet you earlier this year with John Halsall to discuss these issues in person.

I wanted to get back to you as quickly as possible on step-free access at Ash Vale station so that you could respond to Daniel McHugh. I will follow up on your question about opportunities to improve the rail service from Surrey Heath in a later email.

I can understand why you are a huge supporter of making Ash Vale Station step-free; making the network safe and inclusive for all is really important to me. I know there was local disappointment that Ash Vale station wasn’t successful in its Access for All funding bid from the Department for Transport. The programme was heavily subscribed, and many credible applications weren’t progressed as a result.

We applied to have lifts installed at Ash Vale through the scheme’s mid-tier funding, which focusses on smaller station improvements, but the estimated costs of at least £3M for this exceeded the maximum funding of £1M allowable. As such, this application also couldn’t move forward, and there won’t be an opportunity until the next control period, starting in 2024, to make a further application under this scheme.

But we appreciate that your constituents want to see improvements sooner, and with that in mind, John Halsall has asked his Investment Director to investigate opportunities for alternative third-party funding to facilitate accessibility at Ash Vale. In the meantime, we will also approach your local council to see what other steps we may be able to take to make accessibility improvements at Ash Vale.

Andrew

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|  | **Andrew Haines** |
| Chief Executive  |
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