

By Stuart Woledge

THE CONCOURSE at Sevenoaks Station is to be resurfaced "within the next year" after Southeastern bosses agreed to make the much-needed safety improvement.

The announcement, made at a meeting of Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association (SRTA) on May 9, signals a triumph for the Chronicle's Make our Station Safer campaign.

SRTA chairman Roger Johnson said: "Southeastern has finally responded to Sevenoaks travellers' concerns. We look forward to having safe flooring in the near future."

Pressure had been mounting on the rail operator after several accidents on the notoriously slippery surface. Passengers and community leaders alike, including MP Michael Fallon, had called for action.

Responding to the news Mr Fallon said: "I'm delighted, but it should not have taken so long and I congratulate the Chronicle on its campaign."

Clarendon Road resident Amanda Millhouse, 45, commutes from the station every day. She was injured when she fell last year.

She said: "This is excellent news. I hope to see the work done preferably before the winter so we don't see the start of another series of incidents."

Mrs Millhouse reported her accident to the Office of Rail Regulators and a site visit by officers in January concluded "more could be done to improve flooring".

The decision to resurface the floor marks a departure from Southeastern's initial response which was to put mats and additional warning signs down in wet weather.

Southeastern spokesman Nigel Jarrett said: "Southeastern keeps maintenance at its stations under constant review and is able to confirm that the flooring at Sevenoaks station is now scheduled for replacement within the next year. The project is to be put out to tender."

Sevenoaks mayor Cllr

Richard Parry attended the meeting.

He said: "At long last something's being done."

"I'm very pleased, as will everybody else, that Southeastern has responded to pressure by the SRTA and the people who use the station, and they realise the floor has to be replaced."

He added: "Having met with Southeastern together with colleagues, I'm heartened by the quality of the meeting and Southeastern's commitment to improving facilities at the station and on the trains to make the travelling experience a pleasant one from Sevenoaks Station."

