

## How you can help get our railway back?

Local businesses and residents can play a big role in deciding whether Hunstanton and several major communities along the North West Norfolk coast get a railway link to King's Lynn, Cambridge and London.

They are being urged to write letters and send e-mails of support to help secure a £50,000 government grant to push the project forward. The strict deadline is March 1st.

"Just a hundred positive words from everyone could be a real game changer. You can help improve all our lives and those of future generations," says Norfolk County councillor Andrew Jamieson. "Please do it now - our chance of success will be so much greater if we all work together".

The campaign to get our railway back faces stiff competition to be recognised by the Department for Transport (DfT), which has allocated £500 million nationwide to its Restoring Railways Fund support areas that are losing out because of poor public transport. It has already selected 25 schemes for £50,000 kick-start grants, and has warmly encouraged us to take part in the third and final round of the competition.

West Norfolk MP James Wild is also fully behind the scheme, which is designed to boost the economies of Hunstanton, Heacham, Snettisham and Dersingham. All of them had railway stations until May 1969, and a petition has been signed by 6,200 people to win them a new fast rail link.

Its advantages are very clear: It would get our young people to employment in Cambridge without having to move home, and our elderly and the sick could to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in a much faster time. Tourists, so vital to our economy, could visit us without constantly jamming up the A149 road in their cars. People moving to the area would also be better served (the recent explosion in new housing shows no sign of slowing down).

There was a major breakthrough last year when Norfolk County Council commissioned their engineering consultants, WSP, to conduct a high-level desktop study. With significant input from the King's Lynn-Hunstanton Railway Campaign (KLHRC), this has formed the basis of the DfT application.

'It is far too early to decide exactly where the new track would be laid because several original locations are blocked by new development' said Howard Johnston on behalf of the campaign group. 'There are two ways of accessing the present King's Lynn station, via the docks and re-opening the level crossing on John Kennedy Road, or, using the existing 'sand line' towards Middleton and east of the A149 close to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Both

options need further analysis.'

Initial assessment has already considered flood risk, environmental sensitivity, proximity to ancient monuments, safety and the need for level-crossings or bridges.

**To add your support to the bid – please send letters to KLHRC at [hunstantonrail@outlook.com](mailto:hunstantonrail@outlook.com)** – and if you are not one of the people who have already signed the on-line petition of support to reinstate the line from King's Lynn to Hunstanton please sign it [HERE](#).