



# SALTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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19 November 2018

## THE RE-OPENING OF SALTFORD RAILWAY STATION

Saltford Parish Council wishes it to be known by all relevant bodies that the re-opening of Saltford railway station as part of the Metro West rail project remains a high priority for this Council. The 'Saltford Station: Feasibility Study' dated October 2014 prepared by CH2MHill was very encouraging. Option 1, re-opening a station on the existing large (historic) site, was estimated to cost £4 million under scenario A, have a benefit-cost ratio of 2:1, and a net "new" fare revenue forecast of £770,000 per annum based on two trains per hour. This does not include a further revenue stream from parking charges. Patronage was estimated at some 200,000 users/annum.

Saltford Parish Council is aware that the availability of parking at or near the existing site has been misrepresented by some, possibly in order to undermine the case for the station. Demand for car-park spaces is predicted at 159 in 2021 rising to 236 in 2043. There are 144 car-park spaces available on the existing site (Ref. Study - Annex Diagram). This could be considerably increased with a two-storey layout. Furthermore, there is an identified site within 400m of the station which could provide an additional 175 spaces and "thus has the potential to cater for an increased demand for parking at the station" (Ref. Feasibility Report 6.3). Local knowledge suggests that there are further potential sites for car-parking in this vicinity.

Network Rail is ensuring passive provision for a new station on the existing site.

"Following recent discussions with Network Rail on Metro West proposals, initial indications from their timetable assessment suggests that there is sufficient capacity in the timetable to accommodate the extra stop at Saltford" (Ref. Feasibility Report - Executive Summary).

The travelwest brochure "Metro West – Investing in our local rail network" (June 2014) states "we are investigating the possibility of reopening Saltford station."

The re-opening of Saltford railway station is viable, achievable, and contrasts with other proposals floated for a station between Bristol TM and Bath Spa such as a Newton park-and-ride station in green belt land. The Steer Davies Gleave report to B&NES Council May 2000 concluded that it "suffered from a lack of clearly defined markets".

Saltford Parish Council is concerned that the WECA Joint Spatial Plan that has been sent for inspection contains a key diagram - Figure 7 Appendix A - failing to show a red dot (new station) at Saltford.

This Council is aware that Metro West project as a whole is dependent on additional track at Filton Bank and further signalling infrastructure. Nevertheless, Saltford Parish Council is concerned that the £250K earmarked by Bath and North East Somerset Council in the 2015/16 budget to take the Saltford station project forward to the next stage of project development (GRIP stages 3 and 4) involving direct engagement with Network Rail remains unspent.

Saltford Parish Council looks forward to your response to this letter. Saltford Parish Council remains frustrated at the lack of information being provided to the Parish Council by B&NES Council and the West of England Combined Authority and the apparent misrepresentation by some about this vital project.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Warren  
Chair of Saltford Parish Council

Lottie Smith-Collins  
Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

**cc.**  
Cllr Tim Bowles, West of England Mayor, Chair of WECA  
James White, Lead Officer on Metro West at WECA  
Matthew Golton, Commercial Development Director, Great Western Railway  
Mark Hopwood, Managing Director, First Great Western  
Richard Turner, Community Relations Executive, Network Rail  
Sir Peter Hendy CBE, Chair, Network Rail  
Andrew Haines, CEO, Network Rail  
Mark Langman, Route Managing Director of Western, Network Rail  
Ian Wheaton, Town Planner, Network Rail  
Matthew Barnes, First Group  
Jacob Rees-Mog, Member of Parliament for North East Somerset  
Wera Hobhouse, Member of Parliament for Bath  
Phil Harding, Chair, Saltford Environment Group  
Cllr Tim Warren, Leader of B&NES Council and Conservative Group Leader  
Cllr Mark Shelford, B&NES Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment  
Cllr John Bull, B&NES Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel  
Cllr Robin Moss, B&NES Labour Party Group Leader  
Cllr Sarah Bevan, B&NES Independents Spokesperson  
Cllr Dine Romero, B&NES Liberal Democrats Group Leader  
Cllr Emma Dixon, B&NES Saltford Ward Councillor  
Cllr Francine Haerberling, B&NES Saltford Ward Councillor  
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