

Charlotte Bogg

From: Andrew Scott
Sent: 12 December 2015 18:51
To: Charlotte Bogg
Cc:
Subject: Ryedale Plan - Local Sites Consultation

Ryedale District Council
Local Plan Sites Consultation

This e-mail is submitted on behalf of the North York Moors Historical Railway Trust as a comment on the current Local Plan Sites Document consultation exercise and is in response to your letter of 30 October 2015.

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway is one of Ryedale's leading heritage attractions and is a significant direct employer in Pickering where its headquarters is located. It has a further indirect impact on both employment and spend in the District through its ability to attract visitors to the area. The railway is characterised by a linear but very narrow real estate which accommodates the line northwards from Pickering.

Sustaining the operation of the railway as a historical and tourism asset into the long term (and thus its contribution to the local economy) depends on its ability to improve the quality of the visitor experience and to strengthen the maintenance of its infrastructure and its equipment. With the passage of time this task becomes more onerous and the Trust needs to become more self-sufficient. The implication of this is the need for additional facilities. Options for locations are very limited and inevitably involve identifying sites adjacent to the railway which it can acquire from third party owners. From approximately one mile north of Pickering, the railway is within the National Park and road access is very limited. Within the Scarborough Borough section of the National Park, some workshops are housed at Grosmont but the scope for expansion there is very limited and the local labour market and housing for workers is very constrained.

It is clear, therefore, that for continued long term stability of the railway we will need to focus on investing in enhanced facilities in the Pickering – New Bridge zone. Apart from the railway route itself and the listed Pickering Station, our current land ownership in this area is limited to the car park north of Pickering Station and the existing permanent way maintenance yard at New Bridge.

The Trust is currently shaping a masterplan for Pickering which envisages:

- At least a partial solution to the current shortage of car parking for the railway and other Pickering heritage sites

- Development of a new visitor reception centre and car/coach drop off point in the existing car park north of Pickering Station
- Transfer of carriage workshops to and the construction of a carriage barn on an area of land immediately west of the railway and north of Trout Farm crossing.

All of the above is subject to land acquisition and to successful fundraising but it is our intention to bring plans forward in the coming months.

Because of the Trust's dependency on funding from a wide range of external funders, both public and private, it is important to develop funder confidence in the deliverability of schemes at the earliest possible stage. Our plans are being developed following a number of informal discussions with Ryedale Planning Dept. Whilst we are reassured by the responses we have received at these meetings and are confident that acceptable proposals can be shaped within the context and policies of the current Local Plan Strategy, there is very little reference to the Railway, its significance and its planning needs, in the current iteration of that document. We would therefore like to work with the District Council to gain recognition for the proposed sites within the current Local Plan Sites Document.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is required at this stage.

With best wishes

Andrew Scott

*Andrew Scott CBE CEng FMA
Chair, Planning Committee*

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North Yorkshire Moors Railway