



ESK VALLEY RAILWAY PASSENGERS' NEWSLETTER

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Angela Thirkill, Development Manager EVRDC, writes:

This is your chance to help influence the future service on the Esk Valley Line.

We need evidence of community support from both individuals and local organisations for a better train service on the Esk Valley Railway to include in our response to the Department for Transport's Franchise Consultation.

This consultation on the next 'Invitation to Tender' has just been released by the Department for Transport for train operators to bid for the new franchise currently operated by Northern Rail, which includes the Esk Valley line. Once the next tender is awarded, probably for a period of eight to ten years, any changes will be 'set in stone' unless local funding can be found.

To this end, we have a chance to influence what we as a community need as regards our rail service and to provide a blueprint for the new franchise. **Time is short as the closing date for the consultation is 18th August 2014.**

Our case to the Department to Transport includes:

- an early morning service,
- late evening service and
- an all-year-round Sunday service
- At least 8 services per day

but we need to include evidence of widespread community support. **Therefore we are appealing for all local community organisations, particularly town and parish councils along the line, and representatives of our community** to write to EVRDC, in support of the Esk Valley Railway, to support the need for a better service for Whitby and the Esk Valley (presently four return journeys a day, plus Sundays in the high season). **We would ask you to stress your local needs for access to employment, further education, health and leisure opportunities in Middlesbrough and to address social exclusion.**

For example: The new station at the James Cook Hospital is now open – but we need a more frequent service, Sundays included, to allow patients, visitors and staff from the Whitby and Esk Valley part of the line to access the hospital by train.

With swingeing cuts to our local bus services and a high proportion of local households without a car, the Esk Valley Railway is a life-line for our rural communities, and for promoting tourism through the National Park. Using sustainable rail transport, would reduce traffic congestion on rural roads and through our villages, without increasing carbon emissions.

Please send letters by 12th August, either by email to: enquiries@eskvalleyrailway.co.uk or by post to: Angela Thirkill, EVRDC, The Coliseum, Victoria Place, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO21 1EZ.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely

Angela Thirkill
Development Manager
Esk Valley Railway Development Company

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