

Dear Phil

I hope this finds you well, and Happy New year.

I was very pleased to hear that work is being undertaken to explore opening/re-opening a railway station on the stretch of line between Langport and Somerton. Deprivation in rural areas takes a very different slant than in many urban environments and one of the key elements is provision of, and access to good public transport. The closure of so many rural stations and halts in the 1960's may well have saved a bob or two on an overall balance sheet, however it has caused long term financial and social losses across the country. Reinstating access to rail services will both help address this deprivation and also enable national targets to reduce CO2 emissions and reach the targets set for slowing or even reversing climate change.

As the Area Dean for the 26 parishes within the 170 square miles the rail line which runs through Somerton and Langport covers I would offer support for the work being undertaken to seek to reverse the previous closures and the subsequent deprivation it has brought locally.

I hope that this letter might help support the work and hopefully we can see something come to the good in years to come.

Regards

Bruce

Revd Bruce Faulkner
Rector of The Ilchester Benefice
Area Dean of Ivelchester
3 The Paddocks, West Street, Ilchester.
BA22 8PS