



The countryside charity  
Somerset

8 Rowdens Road  
Wells, Somerset  
BA5 1TU  
Tel: 0845 269 4206  
Email: [admin@cpresomerset.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpresomerset.org.uk)  
[www.cpresomerset.org.uk](http://www.cpresomerset.org.uk)

President  
Mariella Frostrup  
Chair  
Hugh Williams  
Manager  
Becky Collier

Phil Edge  
Chairman, Langport Transport Group  
By email to [pnedge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pnedge@yahoo.co.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Phil

On behalf of CPRE Somerset, I wish to express my strong support for your efforts to try to bring a new station to the Langport/Somerton area. CPRE has followed this project with interest for many years and we were pleased when your representative came to speak at our AGM in 2017. Many of our members and many representatives of Somerset Parish Councils were present at that meeting and there was widespread support for your aim of improving the rail infrastructure in Somerset.

We believe that a reopened station in the Langport/Somerton area will help to reconnect rural communities in Somerset and reduce social and economic isolation. Poor public transport provision is not just a problem for older people; it affects whole communities and limits opportunities for the young. CPRE's recent report on [Young People in Rural Areas](#) found that 86% of the 16–25-year-olds surveyed, who said they want to leave rural areas, cited infrequent and unreliable public transport as an important concern. 84% of those wanting to move away surveyed cited loneliness and isolation as important reasons.

Somerset County Council has declared a climate emergency and we urgently need to be investing in sustainable transport alternatives to cars and road use. It is particularly encouraging that the plans for "Restoring Your Railway" in Somerset are being developed in close cooperation with the county's draft Bus Service Improvement Plan. Somerset has been so badly served by public transport for so long and we need to do whatever we can to improve the situation for the sake of our environment, our local economy and our rural communities.

I wish you and your team all the best with this project and please do not hesitate to contact me if CPRE Somerset can be of any help.

Best wishes

Becky Collier  
Manager, CPRE Somerset