

Ref: SomertonRailLine
Date: 13 December 2021

Mr Phil Edge
Chair, Langport Transport Group

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Dear Phil

Ref: Potential Rail Station in Somerton

I am writing to introduce myself and my company who are based at Badgers Cross Lane in Somerton. Train4All Ltd is a private training provider specialising in Construction and Engineering training.

We offer a range of funded provision for traineeships, apprentices, the unemployed, Key Stage 4 and NEET learners, those leaving the Armed Forces, the wider community, and local and national employers. Train4All deliver programmes in Bricklaying, Carpentry, Plastering, Engineering, Welding, Property Maintenance, Health & Safety, Maths, English and Digital Skills and Management qualifications.

As a member of the Somerton Trade business Association, we have been made aware of the scheme to open a new station in the area and wanted to take the opportunity to say what a huge benefit this would be to the community and specifically our learners.

Many that attend Train4All are unable to drive and rely on their parents to transport them to college on a weekly basis. Some supported learners rely on buses, private taxis and utilise funded county transport to attend the centre, however timings of transport don't always fit with daily timetables. To have a station in Somerton would increase the opportunity for more learners to access the facilities at Train4All and to apply for employment and apprenticeships outside of their home location. Those leaving the armed forces would also utilise the new service instead of arranging additional transport from Taunton or Yeovil stations which would save both time and cost for the military.

The impact on the town itself will be fantastic, not only for the local economy with people visiting local shops and utilising the facilities within Somerton, but also the opportunity to access training and employment both in the town and further field. Over the next 3 years we will be assisting with the recruitment and training of 500 operatives that are required to work at Hinkley Point C, Europe's largest construction site. The addition of the rail links will be crucial in widening this opportunity for employment to those across the region.

In summation, Train4All wholeheartedly supports the project and would like to offer our support in any way we can to see this through to completion. I would be delighted to hear more about the project, please do contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

As a side note, we have meeting rooms available at our centre should you require a central venue to hold discussions and in addition we may be able to assist with funding for training when the project moves forward.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your team a very happy Christmas and let's hope a healthier and happy New Year for all.

Yours sincerely



Jon Allen

CEO – Train4All