



## GOOD NEWS

Hello! We are delighted to report that the "GRIP 3" Business Case Study, undertaken by Ove Arup & Partners, has declared that reopening the six-mile 'missing link' south of Stratford-upon-Avon to Long Marston and via the freight branch to Honeybourne is feasible and has a sound business case.

Arup conclude that the Stratford - Long Marston - Honeybourne line is "a promising candidate for reinstatement" which warrants support from the rail industry, businesses and residents.

Subject to 6% growth in demand and minimal track infrastructure a satisfactory benefit to cost ratio of 2.03:1 would be achieved - with revenue exceeding operating costs.

The four-month study by Arup has confirmed that reinstatement of the link would enable a new and fast direct hourly Oxford – Moreton-in-Marsh - Stratford-upon-Avon service as well as an hourly Worcester - Evesham - Stratford-upon-Avon - Leamington Spa service.

The present Greenway cycle path would readily co-exist alongside a single line and four potential highway level crossings would be avoided by new infrastructure. No regular freight train operations are anticipated through Stratford-upon-Avon.

We therefore extend our grateful thanks to the many individuals and voluntary groups who responded magnificently to the 'Let s get a Grip' appeal to enable a £10,000 contribution to be made to the £70,000 study.

Last autumn, respondents to a survey of all Stratford-upon-Avon residents demonstrated that 70% fully support a proposed rail link. The next step is to obtain a more detailed study and gain yet wider support towards eventual implementation.

The on-going re-opening campaign is supported by Shakespeare Line Promotion Group, Cotswold Line Promotion Group, Stratford Rail Transport Group, West Midlands Campaign for Rail, Railfuture, and Solihull and Leamington Rail Users Association.

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