



return to **KESWICK**



...on a modern train from your station !

UPDATE NUMBER 35.

WINTER 2006 - 2007

MAKING THE CASE

JMP Consultants have been busy working on their commission from the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWD), assisted by Lloyds Register Rail and other specialists to undertake a preliminary financial and economic appraisal of options for reconstruction of the railway and operation of a rail passenger service, refine this and prepare a Commercial Business Plan.

By mid December 2006, the first stage was nearing completion.

Independent specialists were used to check the proposals for the line, stations and services made by CKP Railways plc, the Engineering Design content and cost estimates produced by Corus Rail Infrastructure Services (CRIS) and undertake surveys to provide up to date details of road traffic levels, attitudes to reinstatement of the line, and assess potential passenger numbers.

Much information has already been collated, and the appraisals will continue until February 2007. Consultations with the Railway industry and with potential stakeholders in the area are continuing.

After that, in Stage 2, consideration will be given to detailed business planning and possible methods of funding for the Railway reconstruction.

At the same time CRIS have been working on details of a scheme to re-route the very popular foot and cycle path between Keswick and Threlkeld, ways to deal with recent developments at Flusco, and continuing to compile environmental studies for consultation with various statutory bodies.

The foot and cycle path replacement will be a multi-million pound project on its own, but could qualify for alternative funding. Consultation continues on standards, route options and funding.

ASK SOMEBODY ELSE !

Who else thinks we need this line, or more and improved Railways in general ?

- Transport 2000 launched an agenda for railways in August. They stated that a reopened line to Keswick is desperately needed to provide sustainable access to the heart of the Lake District. The list was announced by Gwynneth Dunwoody MP, Chair of the Transport Select Committee.
- On October 27th, in Parliament, Jack Straw MP stated that there has been a 44 percent increase in the number of individuals travelling by train.
- In November, while encouraging youngsters to embrace science, the Prime Minister said that Engineers like Isambard Kingdom Brunel were national figures for what they achieved.
- In December the Office of National Statistics stated that Cumbria has the fastest growing economy in England.

QUOTABLE QUOTE:

Phil Woolas MP in Parliament on the 23rd of October:

“Were planning left entirely to local authorities, I doubt whether the United Kingdom would ever have had an airport, a railway or any other parts of our infrastructure”.

A SAD LOSS

Clive Roberts, Principal Engineer with Corus Rail Infrastructure services at York, died at an early age from cancer - just a few weeks after Update 34 was published.

Clive had been coordinating the design and environmental work for CKP Railways plc and was involved in several other Railway reopening and development projects in the UK and Ireland.

He was also a very active member of the Wensleydale Railway, and served as Engineering Director.

Clive was pictured in Update 25 during filming for BBC's "Working Lunch" at Keswick station.

Clive's knowledge, enthusiasm and support will be sadly missed.

WHAT, NO PROTECTION ???

District and County Councils elsewhere in the UK have provided full protection for the trackbeds of closed Railways in case they are needed in the future.

Here we are, actually well on the way to reopening a line, but have yet to receive this vital support - which would be only a matter of policy, not cost, for the Local Authorities.

National Government, the North West Region, Cumbria County Council, and even Eden District Council ALL have policies with this aim, but, when we have asked them to enforce their policies to protect the Keswick to Penrith route, we have usually received polite replies, but no action.

Worse still, Eden District Council has repeatedly refused to allow us to even talk to Officers or Councillors to explain the Railway project and why protection of the route and reopening of the line would actually bring benefits for them and their constituents !

Various organisations in Penrith want the Railway, and many of our Bondholders live in Eden District. Lots of people would be much happier if the Council took a more positive stance.

Eden District Council has received hundreds of objections to planning applications which could adversely affect the reconstruction of the Railway; reports by their own consultants told them that the CKP scheme is publicly supported and developing faster than many publicly funded projects.

We are very grateful to Tony Cunningham MP (whose constituency includes Keswick) for taking this up with relevant Government departments, although so far those departments have not reacted decisively to a Local Authority that is rendering their policy making totally pointless !!!

LOOKING FOR NEW BONDHOLDERS

Bonds are still generating the bulk of the income which CKP is investing in the project.

CKP would like to hear from anyone who can distribute copies of the Prospectus to potential new investors. Surveys on potential use of the line conducted by JMP for the NWDA had a very good response rate from Hotels and Guest Houses – can we build on this ???

Perhaps you have interested colleagues, friends or relatives who we have not contacted directly ? Bondholders locally, nationally and internationally have been increasing their holdings as the project has progressed. Several have now invested more than £1,000, and some – more than £5,000.

If you can help, the quickest way to reach us is to e-mail ckp@martindale.force9.co.uk

The Prospectus can only be distributed in printed form - sorry, we can not send it by e-mail !

The order form which comes with posted copies of this Update has a poster on the reverse which you are welcome to display. The order form is also available via our website.

WE WISH ALL OUR SUPPORTERS A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR !

FLUSCO - THE ONGOING SAGA

The studies being carried out for the NWDA have also looked in detail at the effects of the recent developments given planning permission by Eden District Council (Eden) at Flusco.

Estimated costs (at current price levels as verified by Lloyds Register Rail) just for creating a deviation to avoid blockages of the line at Flusco would be in the order of £17 MILLION. Reinstating the original line through Flusco would have cost only a small fraction of this.

CKP has repeatedly told Eden District Council that there would be a major financial impact from these developments. We hope that Eden will eventually take notice and protect the trackbed !

The North Lakes Industrial Park at Flusco received outline planning permission more than six years ago. Since then detailed planning applications have been put forward for less than half the site, so it is difficult to see why there is any pressing need to build on the trackbed. Such permissions therefore fail the main test required by National Government's Planning Policy Guidance PPG13.

Eden's own policy RE7 also says that "by careful design" developments and re-useable Railway trackbeds can be accommodated. Eden has repeatedly failed to enforce its own policy in this respect – the oil depot (application 06/0001, permission granted in August 2006) could have been relocated within the Industrial Park area, and it has not been proven that the extensions permitted to the concrete works yard (06/0289, 06/0336 and 06/0710) need to be exactly the size or location proposed.

CKP also notified Eden that these developments were started without planning permission, in some cases even before applications had been submitted. Despite visits by Enforcement Officers to site, noting these facts and agreeing that developments were unauthorised, the Council granted planning permission. CKP contends that Eden is rewarding and encouraging un-authorised development.

In correspondence to other organisations, Eden suggests that CKP is causing planning blight – which can not be taken seriously. CKP has heard that other developers find it frustrating when Eden does not apply its own policies even-handedly. That could be the real root of the problem.

In late November 2006, application number 06/0907 was published – a food warehouse at Flusco. The details and location plans published on Eden's website for this are confusing, but it appears that this might also obstruct the Railway trackbed. CKP has asked for clarification. On this occasion Eden did at least consult CKP – perhaps a sign of progress towards understanding the Railway.

PLEASE WRITE TO EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL AND OBJECT TO ALL BLOCKAGES OF THE TRACKBED. The Council is obliged to list objections, even if it decides to ignore them. Others will stand in judgment of the Council's behaviour !

Please write to : Planning Services Department,
Eden District Council,
Mansion House,
Penrith, CA11 7YG Quote Planning Application 06/0907.

Please, also send a copy to: CKP Railways plc, 1 Solway Park, Carlisle, CA2 6TH.

Or object by email to: planning.services@eden.gov.uk and copy to ckp@martindale.force9.co.uk

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2006, PLEASE RENEW FOR 2007

25% of every subscription goes directly to CKP Railways plc for Railway development. The rest pays for your Updates and allows us to send information to Politicians, Local Authorities, media, etc. Whether you receive your Updates by post or via e-mail, please renew your subscription for 2007.

- Icen Enterprises Ltd this year handed over more than £700 to CKP Railways plc from the sale of subscriptions, books, CDs, videos and other project related merchandise.
- More funding also came from the recycling of inkjet cartridges, rail ticket sales and donations.

YOU CAN NOW SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES IN 2007

To receive either printed or e-mail copies, please subscribe for the year's Updates (£10) - Cheques payable to Icen Enterprises Ltd.

25% of every subscription goes to CKP Railways plc for Railway development work.

Updates planned for April, August and December - sooner if there is any hot news.

If you have access to email, we can send Updates electronically - saving time, money and paper.

Please tell us if you change your e-mail address !!

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT

25% of the price of each item goes directly to the Keswick to Penrith Railway Project. *The BBC recently found that only 8% of the price of charity Christmas Cards goes to the named causes.*

1. The report "Return to Keswick - the case for a New Railway" is available at £20 per copy direct from us (post free), or order through bookshops by quoting ISBN 1-902543-02-5.
2. "Northern Railways" is a DVD by Nigel Wright covering many parts of the north of England. Lots of recent material from a wide variety of locations. £13.00 per copy.
3. "Trains to Keswick" is a professionally produced video featuring people along the line. It was filmed in the last few months before closure in 1972. Buy from us at £12.99 per copy.
4. "CKP, only sleeping" on CD contains hundreds of photographs of the trackbed and surrounding scenery, taken recently by Nigel Wright - who also manages the CKP website. Scenic and detailed views of the route and landscape in all seasons. The double CD costs £10.
5. Fine Art prints and greetings cards featuring a stunning winter view of the steam hauled "Lakes Express" near Bassenthwaite Lake station, painted by Eric Bottomley of the Guild of Railway Artists. Prints (24" x 16") are £18 each, cards (6" x 8") with envelopes - £1.40 each.

N.B. All the prices above are post free to addresses in the UK, but please add £2.50 per order for posting to addresses outside the UK (Postage to overseas destinations on packages is not cheap !).

Cheques payable to Icen Enterprises Ltd for any of these items, please.

6. Phone and book your rail tickets through "Chester-le-Track" for any journey on the National Network, including discounted fares for Railcard holders, etc. Phone Chester-le-Track on 0191-387-1387, quote "CKP Offer" and they will pay 3% of the total sale as commission to CKP Railways plc. The total sale must be at least £25, paid for by credit card.

YOU CAN STILL APPLY FOR BONDS !

CKP Railways plc Bonds, in multiples of £100, pay interest at 4% per annum gross.

These funds are used only for the Railway reconstruction project.

Over £330,000 raised and invested so far in design and development.

Businesses, groups and private individuals can all apply.

Bonds can be bought for children, grandchildren, friends or relatives.

Fully coloured and signed Certificates are issued - designed to appeal to collectors.

Please write or e-mail to the address below for a copy of the Prospectus.

Cedric A. Martindale. BSc.Hons, AUS, CEng., MIMechE, CMILT. - Director

No. 35, December 2006

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