



# return to **KESWICK**



## ...on a modern train from your station !

*UPDATE NUMBER 36.*

*SPRING 2007*

### **SPRING – A ROLLER COASTER RIDE !!!**

On the 21st of February, Eden District Council announced its decision regarding the food warehouse under planning application 06/0907 – see page 3 of Update 35.

CKP Railways plc (CKP) had expressed concern that the location appeared to infringe the trackbed. The developers then issued a revised plan with boundaries clear of the trackbed – a success !

However, the site had been bulldozed, damaging the trackbed, BEFORE the planning application was even considered by the Council. CKP asked for this damage to be rectified as a condition of granting Planning Permission. Councillor Lorraine Taylor of Keswick Town Council addressed Eden's Planning Committee to ask for the trackbed to be protected, because of the greater future benefits to the whole area from reinstating the Railway. Other CKP supporters also objected. Eden District Council chose not to apply any such conditions – therefore condoning the damage.

At the end of January, a planning application (07/0080) was lodged for a chicken shed on the trackbed at Stainton, just west of Penrith. Eden failed to consult CKP (a step backwards), but the application was spotted by CKP and its supporters on Eden's website - despite a vague title !

CKP Railways plc, Keswick Town Council, the Railway Business Case Steering Group and several CKP supporters objected.

The Steering Group advised that its study into the Business Case for the Keswick to Penrith Railway was in its last stages and would be published soon. Councillor Lorraine Taylor of Keswick Town Council again spoke at the Committee hearing to ask for the trackbed to be protected.

A proposal to defer the decision, until the Steering Group's work was complete, was out-voted.

- ◆ On the 19th of April, Eden's Planning Committee granted permission for the chicken shed. Their official view was that this would create "just another infrastructure obstacle".
- ◆ On the 24th of April, the Steering Group examining the Railway's Business Case held its final meeting. The results will be announced in the Summer.
- ◆ On the 26th of April, Transport 2000 and the Conservative Party announced plans to lobby the Government to protect railway trackbeds around the country for reopening. Keswick to Penrith is on their list of priorities. Border TV interviewed Cedric Martindale (Director of CKP Railways plc) as well as Stephen Joseph of Transport 2000. Border TV highlighted the chicken shed decision in their broadcasts.

Our experience demonstrates that enforcement of existing policies is needed.

Trackbed protection currently relies totally on the vigilance, energy and determination of ordinary people on the ground, and the attitude of individual Local Authorities. Protection policies exist, but the Government seems not to want to press Local Authorities to abide by them.

Does the Government realise it is being undermined ?

- In France, the route of a closed Railway is given automatic protection for 50 years.
- Britain has become a "tear, use and throw away" society when it comes to infrastructure.
- In the 19th century Britain threw away canals to build railways then, in the late 20th Century, threw away many railways and tried to rely on roads. We need strategic, joined up thinking.

*Lobby your MP and local Councillors !*

[www.ckp-railways.co.uk](http://www.ckp-railways.co.uk)

## WORLD CHALLENGE

For the second consecutive year, the Keswick to Penrith Railway Project has been nominated for the Shell World Challenge. In 2006 it was one of about 800 projects from around the world to be listed. Unfortunately it did not get into the final 12 last year, which would have seen it featured on the BBC worldwide, and put it in the final reckoning for a £20,000 cash prize.

## KESWICK MASTERPLAN

The final draft of the Keswick Masterplan was published in January 2007 by Keswick Area Partnership Ltd. This plan draws together ideas to create a vibrant and productive town for the 21st Century. It looks at all aspects of life, the environment and business.

The Keswick to Penrith Railway is seen as an essential means of transport for the future, worthy of support and funding.

The Keswick Area Partnership (created under the market Towns Initiative) will be publicising the ideas contained in the Masterplan. Keswick Town Council will consider them in detail.

## USEFUL WEB LINKS

To keep an eye on planning applications received by Eden District Council:

<http://eforms.eden.gov.uk/fastweb/welcome.asp>

(Updated every Thursday)

To read the Keswick Masterplan document:

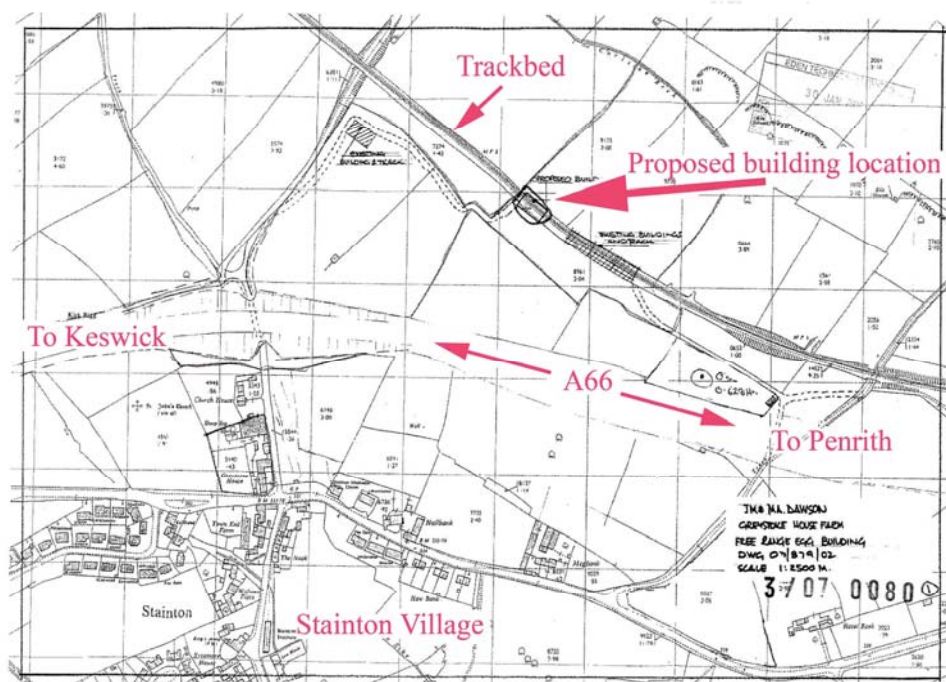
[www.keswick.org/area\\_partnership.asp](http://www.keswick.org/area_partnership.asp)

To find out more about the Keswick to Penrith Railway Project itself:

[www.ckp-railways.co.uk](http://www.ckp-railways.co.uk)

## STAINTON – CHICKEN SHED

This is the location plan – which was published (without notes) on Eden District Council's website.



## DEVELOPMENTS AT FLUSCO

These photographs were taken on the 24th of April 2007.  
They are presented east to west (starting at the Penrith end of the site):



Trackbed east of the block yard, past the carbon works, towards Penrith.  
Untidy, perhaps, but not obstructed.



Trackbed west through block yard and car park.  
Ground levels have changed but there are no permanent buildings on the alignment.



Trackbed east from oil depot to concrete works.  
Food warehouse site is to the left and does not obstruct the trackbed.



Oil depot -  
view westwards along trackbed alignment.



Oil depot -  
view eastwards along the trackbed from the main road.  
Eden's Officers tried to argue that this would not amount to an obstruction !

## **BUY BONDS – INVEST IN THE RAILWAY PROJECT !**

**CKP Railways plc Bonds, in multiples of £100, pay interest at 4% per annum gross.  
Over £330,000 raised and invested so far in design and development.**

*These funds are used only for the Railway reconstruction project.*

*No un-necessary overheads and no "fat cats" !*

**Bonds have been sold to organisations and individual holders.**

**Can be bought for children, grandchildren, friends or relatives.**

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

***Please contact the address below for a free copy of the Prospectus.***

## **WHAT TO BUY TO SUPPORT THE RAILWAY PROJECT**

**25% of the price of each item goes directly to the Keswick to Penrith Railway Project.**

*The BBC 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. "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.
3. "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.
4. 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.
5. "Northern Railways" is a DVD (for computers only) by Nigel Wright covering many parts of the north of England. Recent material from a wide variety of locations. £13.00 per copy.

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

**Cheques payable to Icen Enterprises Ltd for any of the items above, please.**

6. Phone and book your rail tickets through "Chester-le-Track" for any journey on the National Network, including Railovers and discounts for Railcard holders. 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 SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES IN 2007**

**If you have not already done so, please subscribe to this year's Updates (£10).**

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

**But please, please, tell us if you change your e-mail address !!**

**Cheques payable to "Icen Enterprises Ltd.", send to the address below.**

**25% of every subscription goes to CKP Railways plc to help fund development work.**

**Next Updates planned for August and December – plus e-mail alerts for any hot news.**

**We do not sell or give mailing list details to anybody !**

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

No. 36, April 2007

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