



Councillor Joy Aitman

Mayor of Witney

Dear Joy Aitman

I had not realised when I asked Duncan for a letter of support that he had surrendered his chair to you months ago. My apologies. Will you do the necessary, please? A short statement on appropriate letterhead is all that is required.

You will know that Oxfordshire County Council debated Charles Mathew's (Tory) motion below two weeks ago. Tim Bearder (LibDem) added the text in red to focus on rail.

*Council asks Cabinet to review the plans presently being offered and adopt a long-term strategy that will meet the public's needs for the next twenty years at least and as part of this work will undertake a feasibility study, should funding be confirmed, in the next financial year, to look at a rail link from Carterton, Witney and Eynsham to Oxford.*

The motion passed with none against and just one abstention. Much pleasant was said about the efforts of WOT (Witney Oxford Transport) over many years to bring the possibilities of rail to public attention. Our next step will be a submission to the government's Beeching Reversal fund for a feasibility study, which must be made soon. The fund requires the explicit support of local MPs and other worthies, of which you are one. At the moment, we have support from Layla Moran (and a five-page letter from Courts arguing that a railway would only attract more people and so more housing), the mayor of Carterton and the Lord Mayor of Oxford. May we have yours as Mayor of Witney as well?

Best wishes

Stuart Macdonald

Visiting professor, School of Management, University of Leicester

General editor, *Prometheus*