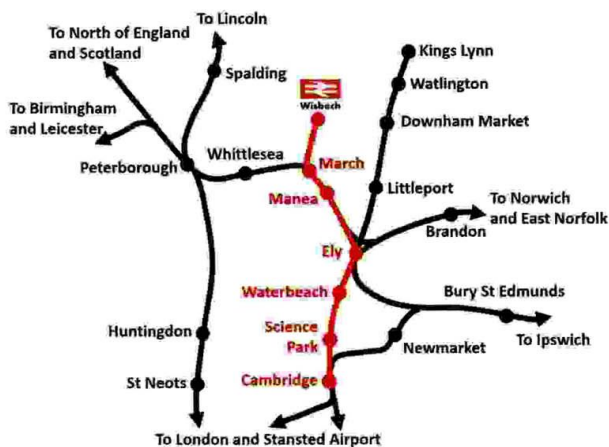


RAILFUTURE-EAST ANGLIA BRANCH

Wisbech Rail Reopening Campaign



Reopening the seven miles of railway line between Wisbech and March will create an economic stimulus, encourage new development and improve transport links between Wisbech and the surrounding towns and cities.

Please sign the petition at
wisbechrail.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

On Tuesday 16th July 2013, the Chairman of Railfuture East Anglia, Peter Wakefield, presented a petition to Cambridgeshire County Council calling for the reinstatement of national railway services between Wisbech and March with an hourly through service between Wisbech and Cambridge. 3784 people signed the petition which was gathered in and around Wisbech and within the rest of Cambridgeshire. In his brief speech in presenting the petition to the Council, Mr Wakefield said:

“Today I want to present to you a petition with 2907 signatures from Cambridgeshire calling for the re-opening of the railway line to Wisbech with a direct service to Cambridge. Part of Wisbech is in Norfolk and there are another 493 signatures from there, with a further 384 signatures from friends and family in the rest of the country. 94% of the signatures from Cambridgeshire live in Fenland District, mainly from Wisbech but including strong support from March, Manea and other local villages.”

Subsequently, on August 7th 2013, the Leader of the Cambridgeshire County Council, Cllr Martin Curtis replied to the presentation of the petition with the message shown below. Railfuture East Anglia on behalf of the petitioners, welcomes this positive reply and look forward to the reinstatement of national rail services from Wisbech. The petition is still open at wisbechrail.org.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL – 16 JULY 2013- RESPONSE

Thank you for presenting your 2907-signature petition at Council on 16 July 2013, supporting the re-opening of the Wisbech to March railway line and provision of a through train service to Cambridge.

We welcome this petition and all the work you and the Campaign have put into promoting better transport links for Wisbech. This is an important part of demonstrating the strength of feeling locally and in time, of improving provision.

The Council supports the goal of better transport links to and from Wisbech, and rail if possible, and has already commissioned work to understand the feasibility of different options to achieve that goal. We are now carrying out detailed works into the proposals so that we can understand the scale of costs involved and how they may be addressed and, subject to the outcome, we would hope then to be in a position to identify potential solutions. I appreciate that this process may appear to be very lengthy, but it is necessary to ensure we develop the right solution.

As we move this work forward, I will ensure that my officers keep the campaign and Railfuture informed of progress, and hope that a positive outcome for Wisbech can be achieved as soon as possible.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Martin Curtis

Leader, Cambridgeshire County Council

Ends -

*NOTES FOR EDITORS: Further information from EA
Branch Chairman, Peter Wakefield*

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<pwakefield32@gmail.com> or Chris Burton on 01223 352327 / 07780
856212 cfb79ten@gmail.com*

*Enclosed pictures show group of march and Wisbech Councillors outside Shire Hall,
Cambridge on presentation day, plus a close up of Peter Wakefield actually
presenting the petition in full Council Meeting.*