



MAGOR (Magor Action Group On Rail) have set out below a response to the Active Travel Consultation.

We considered the location of some of the obvious services and facilities such as schools, hospitals and railway stations and believe that a forward looking Bill it should include **proposed new** railway stations in its thinking especially Magor & Undy Walkway, which is specifically based on the ability to walk or cycle to the station.

MAGOR is a community action group formed and constituted by local residents in 2012, with the single objective of re-instating a railway station to serve the growing communities of Magor with Undy. The population of Magor with Undy has seen a population and housing explosion in the last twenty five years. If the proposals contained in the Local Development Plan get the go ahead for a further 640 houses in Magor with Undy, the population is set to expand by a further 20 – 30% in the next few years. The B4245 road (the main road through the villages) carries in excess of 11000 vehicles per day. Given a projected 20 – 30% rise in the population of Magor with Undy in the next few years, we see a railway station that is a walk/cycle to, rather than a drive to, as a solution to alleviate some of the inevitable growth in traffic that the increase in population will create. We currently have around 100 members signed up to the group and the full support of the **COMMUNITY** Jessica Morden MP, county, community councillors and local businesses. We see the development of the railway station as key and critical strategy to easing the congestion problems the villages currently have to endure

There is a need for a different planning model when it comes to catering for passenger rail travel growth. In the past the building of new stations was totally dependent on being built at the same time as new and volume housing developments in the location to generate new passenger flows. This is then perceived as totally new business for the railways, which is a flawed thesis, as conversation from car to train is probably more beneficial to the environment and the well being of people.. Magor with Undy, has seen a housing development explosion take place in the 1990s. Over 40% of the inhabitants have to commute out of the area to work. This is usually done by car in ever increasing numbers, on ever increasingly congested and crumbling road infrastructure. The nearest railway stations are Severn Tunnel Junction – 2.5 miles and Newport – 10miles. The need for a railway station has never been more apparent. With changes to the South Wales Main line through electrification and other schemes already underway, it is now or never for us to deliver Magor & Undy Walkway to the benefit of future generations

Every resident of both Magor with Undy would be within 15 minutes walking time, less for cyclists from the proposed Magor & Undy Walkway Station. The building of Magor & Undy Walkway would potentially transfer a lot of westbound commuters in to Wales away from cars to rail. A cost benefit ratio study has shown that Magor with

Undy would be one of the top best value for money for proposed new Welsh railway stations. Therefore, there is a requirement based on the needs of the communities to change the qualification requirement for developing new railway stations. This process should also be driven by the need to integrate railway stations as a valuable part of the social fabric of the community (Swiss model) and not be seen as some piece of infrastructure that is on the fringe of the community which is only used for a few hours each day. To illustrate the point, the communities of Magor with Undy are desperate for a Community Centre. Despite over thirty years of trying to secure the Community Centre on allocated land in the in the middle of both villages, little progress has been made since 1974. The integration of a railway station within the proposal would be a major opportunity to have joined up thinking when it comes to meeting the future needs of the community and make both schemes cheaper to construct. The MAGOR Group proposal is for a joint development of a new station incorporated with the Community Centre. This would a community asset and the station would revenue generative through a station agency ticket office with income going back to the community (Swiss model). This type of joined up thinking is what is needed in the future planning of the railways in Wales. The development of a station/community centre hub at Magor with Undy, would help reduce the 11000 vehicles using the B4245, thus securing a reduction in carbon footprint and contribute to the wellbeing of the people for generations to come.

In 2013 a survey was been carried out with the residents of Magor with Undy, seeking their views on what they would like to see to improve their quality of life. The two most desired improvements for Magor with Undy are a Community Centre and Magor & Undy Walkway Station. This confirms the research we already undertaken. We accept that traffic management and ensuring that routes are kept safe and free from congestion is critical to the success of Magor & Undy Walkway. This will be incumbent on the local authority to develop a plan that ensures the infrastructure is conducive to encouraging walking and cycling to Magor & Undy Walkway, whilst at the same time discouraging the potential for 'ad hoc' car parking that could create a menace for the residents if not managed as part of an integrated plan. Another benefit of Magor & Undy Walkway it would provide integration with the buses, which currently does not exist for the residents of Magor with Undy.

Thank you for allowing MAGOR to express its views on the Active Travel Consultation. We believe that the development of a community hub of Magor & Undy Walkway Station, along with the Community Centre, would be a massive benefit towards the well-being of our residents.

Should you require any clarification or further information, please contact me.

Laurence Hando

Chairnan