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Mrs Cawley
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26 September 2017

Dear Mrs Cawley,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 September 2017.

The MAGOR group discussed your response at its recent meeting and it is fair to say that there was considerable disappointment that the council felt that it could not support our request to any level this year. You say that the overriding fact or reason for this decision was that the group had 'already received two amounts of money'. This seems to be a weak argument when it is well known that the community council provides substantial grants to other (no doubt worthy) organisations on a recurring annual basis. The grants that we received in the past have certainly helped us with the admin costs of running the campaign and moreover to raise further funds (via the Frost and May Fayres etc.).

We have, via the above methods amounted a sum of around £2000 which will contribute to the completion of the GRIP 3 study. Department for Transport, Welsh Government, Railfuture and MCC, who are also contributing, are aware of this sum, as they are similarly aware of the sum of £10k earmarked by MUCC to add to the pot. So, each year we start afresh to raise further funds to help fund the eventual cost of GRIP 3 and the grants that MUCC have provided previously have been fundamental to doing this. Without some support funding from MUCC this year it will be considerably harder unless we eat into the £2k accumulated.

Following imminent meetings/workshops with Network Rail, DfT, MCC and Mott MacDonald in October (to ensure the scope of the remaining work meets all requirements) it is likely that Welsh Government will approve the completion of GRIP 3 and so the sums mentioned above will then be required.

We have noted that you refer to a 'business case' being required to release the £10k which appears to be a constraint that was not mentioned in the original community council decisions to support MAGOR's aims. I refer you to minutes; 205 - year 15/16 (when the council resolved to "continue to support MAGOR in their endeavours to deliver a Railway Station") and 118.6 - year 16/17 (when the council pledged and raised the sum earmarked for GRIP 3 up to £10k). You are no doubt aware that the work carried out in the first phase of GRIP3 shows that the station would be of "high benefits cost ratio" - which was the key point the minister made to the group when he visited us last May. If the Welsh Government gives the go ahead to complete the work and all the other groups contribute

to the total cost as they have pledged, then it would reflect poorly on MUCC if it then held back.
Perhaps you could clarify the situation?

With the alleged late submission of our grant application earlier this year (which we refuted), the decision not to provide any level of grant this year and the apparent new constraint associated with the pledged money, you will not be surprised that, despite the assurance in your letter, the Group feels that the level of support from MUCC has dropped dramatically. If this is so, the community is likely to wonder why this is the case (as was the case when MUCC withdrew from supporting the community centre project).

Perhaps it would be helpful if we gave a full update at a future MUCC public meeting, when we could elaborate on this and you could question us further?

Yours Sincerely

Laurence Hando

Chairman

MAGOR