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Dear Prime Minister,

### **Magor & Undy Walkway Railway Station - Monmouthshire**

I will try to keep this request for your assistance brief and to the point, as I am sure the compelling nature of it will be all too apparent within a paragraph or two.

We have been pursuing an aim to re-open a station for our communities for almost 8 years. Magor and Undy, when their joint population was around 1000, had both a station and a halt on the South Wales main line. Both were closed in 1964 under the 'Beeching Axe'. Now, with a population of around 6,500 and expected to be close to 10,000 within the next 10 years, the case for a station, that the bulk of the people can walk or cycle to, is overwhelming. It is believed it would be the first dedicated 'walk to' station to open in over 100 years. It will help decongest our local roads and contribute to tackling climate change by a move to a combination of 'active' and sustainable transport. However, the progress appears to be being constrained by Welsh Government (WG), wrestling with the implications of its decision to cancel the M4 relief road.

MAGOR, in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council, has made massive progress over the years. It has –

- The unfailing support of the community (including schools and the community council)
- The backing of RailFuture
- Had the matter raised in 'The House' by our MP, Jessica Morden, in an end of day debate with the then Transport Minister, Jo Johnson (who asked to be kept updated with progress)
- Completed the first 2 stages of the mandatory, Network Rail, 'GRIP' process (and partially completed the third) – already indicating a very strong business case
- Identified that the cost is relatively low (£7m) because of little change needed to rail signalling and track infrastructure.
- The unanimous support of politicians (Assembly Members in Wales and our local MP, Jessica Morden)
- Recently gained the support of our local 'big businesses' – The Celtic Manor Resort (International Conference Centre) and our Budweiser (ABInBev) Brewery.
- The continuing strong support and encouragement of your DfT rail department (after our application to the New Station Fund) and meeting them in Westminster

So, with the recent announcement of the 'Beeching Reversing Fund' and the fact that rail infrastructure development is not devolved to WG, it would seem massively opportune for your Government to now intervene and publicise and promote this scheme as an early 'quick win'! I understand that Jessica Morden MP, is contacting Grant Shapps on the matter but I, as a Conservative Party member, felt it would be beneficial to appeal to you directly to see if you can help.

The full log of our campaign can be found on our website, [magorstation.co.uk](http://magorstation.co.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Paul Turner (Magor Action Group on Rail)