

Public Statement: Portishead Rail Line

Summary

1. Circa 26,250 people live in Portishead and the Gordano Valley and this figure is growing. It has grown by 350% since the 1950s.
2. One major road connects the area to the motorway network and Bristol, the A369, which Liam Fox described in the House of Commons as "the most overcrowded cul-de-sac in Britain" with the only other connection to Bristol being a narrow winding C Class road, Clapton Lane.
3. A survey undertaken by 2 Councillors one morning between 7 & 9 am counted 2408 cars leaving Portishead along the A369 and 1015 leaving along Clapton Lane.
4. 63% of Portishead's Adults travel out of Portishead to work.
5. On a recent BBC programme it took a Portishead resident along with Simon Calder (Travel Correspondent of the Telegraph) and a film crew over 2 hours to travel 12 miles to her place of work in Bristol.
6. The recent Halcrow report to North Somerset Council (NSC) said that there was no reason not to open the line.
7. The chronic traffic problems in the area need to be addressed and solved by NSC and the West of England Partnership. The only alternative so far suggested is opening the railway line to passengers. If another solution can be found that would compliment the current position and the rail line then Portishead Railway Group would campaign for that as well.

Alan Matthews
Chair Portishead Railway Group