



10th Feb 2014

Solving Somerset's transport problems

A group of Somerset transport campaigners are convinced that they have the solution to Somerset's transport problems, and are meeting the government to present their ideas. On the 13th of February, John Hassall and Nigel Bray of Railfuture will meet transport Minister Baroness Kramer to present their proposal for an integrated transport authority for Somerset. "Many cities in this country have much better public transport than rural counties such as Somerset" said John. "This is because their transport is integrated, with things such as joint ticketing and coordinated timetabling. An ITA would allow us to do this, and hopefully attract more funding too, meaning that transport users in Somerset will get a much better deal"

"Somerset County Council seems content to just let public transport try to run itself. This "hands off" attitude is not good enough, it can't deliver the decent public transport that we need, which is why we are pushing for an ITA"

Nigel Bray added: "There's a real lack of information and co-ordination between different modes of transport. For example, there is no information at Bridgwater station about onward bus travel; and many bus stops have no information at all".

"Somerset County Council must define its rail priorities and discuss them with neighbouring authorities otherwise it will be squeezed between the well developed rail plans of Metro West and Devon Metro. If Central Government thinks that the County Council doesn't have any ideas about how to promote and develop rail, there's a real danger that train services in Somerset will suffer."

Notes to editors:

Railfuture is the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for both passengers and freight.

Railfuture's website can be found at: www.railfuture.org.uk

Follow Railfuture on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Railfuture>

For further information and comment please contact:

Nigel Bray
Secretary, Severnside Branch
Tel: 01452 501986
nigel.bray@railfuture.org.uk

Bruce Williamson, media spokesman
Tel: 0117 927 2954 Mobile: 07759 557389
media@railfuture.org.uk