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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LAST CHANCE FOR RADSTOCK RAILWAY?**

A crucial decision affecting Radstock's future may be taken at Bath & North East Somerset Council's meeting at the end of November. A proposed housing development on former rail land may block the route of a possible reopened railway to Radstock. Local rail group Railfuture Severnside supports reopening of the disused railway between Radstock and Frome, and is urging planners to safeguard a corridor for future reinstatement of the line.

"We are not averse to new housing on former railway land" said Branch Secretary Nigel Bray "but we must not lose this opportunity to safeguard the railway. It could become Radstock's gateway to the outside world." Campaigners have organised a petition against the proposals.

Norton-Radstock is one of the largest urban settlements in the South West without any form of connection to the national rail network. A planning inspector had previously recommended 80 homes on the site, which would allow future rail use. The current proposals under consideration are for 210 homes.

**Notes for editors:**

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Rail is a vital part of an integrated efficient transport system serving a modern, vibrant, environmentally sustainable economy. We are pro-rail but not anti-road. Railfuture maintains that investment in rail travel and rail freight is vital to the future of the UK economy and environment.

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