



PRESS RELEASE:

## **Missing Uckfield - Lewes rail link moves a step nearer**

Rail campaigners are working with transport industry experts to start building a case for a bigger better Wealden railway, including reopening the Uckfield - Lewes rail link. National group Railfuture has hired Jonathan Roberts Consulting to work with potential stakeholders, identifying their key issues and building a vision for regional economic growth in the South Coast and Weald enabled by better travel links between main communities. Their aim is to align stakeholders to support an affordable solution which can be delivered in a reasonable timescale.

The Uckfield to Lewes line closed in 1969. 'This is the missing link in the Sussex railway network', said Chris Page from the local Railfuture group. 'Reconnecting the link would enable people in the Weald to commute to jobs and education in Brighton, allow through services from London to take visitors to the proposed water park in Newhaven, and help to relieve overcrowding on Brighton Main Line services. We've been working with local councils on plans for a car park and transport hub at the old station site in Uckfield. Now we've committed money from our volunteers' fighting fund to kick-start building a new business case for reinstating the line.'

Railfuture director Roger Blake said: 'We selected JR Consulting because they submitted the most imaginative proposal. Jonathan Roberts was instrumental in gaining commitment from key stakeholders for the development of the East London Line Extension from Shoreditch to Dalston, and we hope JRC can do the same for us, to connect up Sussex'.

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