



Stewart Newlands,
Aberdeenshire Council,
Viewmount,
Arduthie Road,
Stonehaven,
AB39 2DQ

11th April 2022

Planning Application APP/2022/0261

Dear Sir,

We are writing in support of the above planning application concerning a public paved cycle and walking path between Cairnbulg and Fraserburgh on the site of the former St Combs railway branch. Our group would like to formally record our support for this proposal and echo the overwhelmingly positive sentiment expressed so far by a majority of responders from the community.

These proposals would not conflict with CNER's plans for a railway connection to Fraserburgh in any way, even if the option that includes a stop at Inverallochy and Cairnbulg is selected from our proposals to be advanced. In our view, the construction of the proposed path will enhance any future railway connection, as well as the local area by providing safe, segregated access between the two towns. The proposal will encourage more active travel in the area by facilitating circular walks along the entire length of Fraserburgh beach, with a safe route back to the beginning of the walk. Further, this path will provide sustainable access to attractions, such as Fraserburgh Golf Course and Waters of Philorth Local Nature Reserve for visitors making use of the railway should our campaign be successful, thereby increasing the likelihood that persons who wish to visit the area will choose to travel sustainably by train. This new path facilitates the carriage of bicycles on a potential rail service for passengers to enjoy wider access to the surrounding area. Additionally, this path allows cyclists to travel safely between Fraserburgh, Inverallochy and Cairnbulg, and St Combs since the latter two towns are already connected by a quiet, single track road alongside Inverallochy Golf Course which is suitable for cycling.

We would like to see any former railway infrastructure such as track, sleepers, signage or signalling equipment discovered during construction of this path be salvaged and offered for donation to Maud Railway Museum such that it can be preserved and displayed for future generations.

Overall we wholeheartedly back these proposals and believe they will produce a transport link that is an asset to the communities of Inverallochy and Cairnbulg, Fraserburgh, and St Combs. We further believe this project would enhance our own proposals for a new railway in the area, and that eventual completion of both projects will see mutual benefits for all in the surrounding area, as well as visitors. We strongly encourage Aberdeenshire Council to approve the application forthwith.

Yours,

Jordan Jack,
Craig Leuchars,
Wyndham Williams

Founding Members, CNER