

Petition to Restore Funding for the Portishead & Pill line reopening



There's been a lot of news and comment about the Portishead & Pill line reopening. Here's a few facts about what is happening and what happens next:

1. The Government have cancelled the Restoring your Railways fund.
2. Most of the funding for the Portishead project has been in place for years ... and does not come from that fund.
3. However, it turns out the final Dept. for Transport tranche of the £152 million, plus the additional funding now required due to delays and cost increases had no other source than the Restoring your Railways fund.
4. No one has cancelled reopening the Portishead line and all the parties involved, locally and nationally, remain committed to the project being completed.
5. There will now be a delay (again) whilst the review required by the new government is completed and any revision of the funding sources is addressed.

An enormous amount of work has already been completed and this continues right now, with the removal of the old track between Portishead and the Pill junction.

It has taken 10 years to get this far, including the 27,000 page Development Consent Order, and construction was due to begin shortly.

The reopening offers a project that could be delivered quickly. However this can only happen if the funding can be found. Our new MP, Sadik Al-Hassan has made sure that the Portishead & Pill line is not on the list of cancelled projects. We have agreed with him that to keep the pressure on the Treasury and DfT to find the funds to see the project through, we should organise a Public Petition.

A Public Petition is different to the e-petitions that are widely used. It has to be written in a specific way and is actually presented to Parliament by an MP. Our Public Petition states:

'... Reopening the Portishead branch line is necessary to reduce traffic on the congested roads between Portishead and Bristol; reducing such traffic would lead to lower CO2 emissions, thus benefitting the environment; and is needed to encourage investment and economic growth in Portishead and the greater Bristol area.

The petitioners therefore request the House of Commons to urge His Majesty's Government to recognise the considerable work already performed to reopen the Portishead branch line; to recognise the public funding already invested in it; and to ensure that the necessary central government funding is provided to reopen the Portishead branch line'

You can find out more here: <https://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/sign-a-petition/paper-petitions/>

All the information that we currently have is on the Portishead Railway Group and MetroWest websites, as well as on several Facebook pages. When there is more news, we will let you know straight away.

Thanks for your support. You can find more information here:

www.portisheadrailwaygroup.org www.travelwest.info/projects/metrowest/