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2022-10-31

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Charfield station – planning application P22/05778/R3F**

Railfuture is Britain's leading and longest-established national independent voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for a better railway across a bigger network for passengers, and freight users, to support economic (housing and productivity) growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities. We seek to influence decision makers at local, regional and national levels to implement pro-rail policies in transport and development planning.

Our support for this proposal was first set out in our response, dated 10 January 2022, to a previous consultation.

We wish here to re-state our support for the proposal, now at this planning application stage. We endorse in particular the Transport Assessment and especially the remarks in chapter 1 Introduction, chapter 2 Planning Policy Review and chapter 8 Summary and Conclusion. We attach high priority to expanding sustainable travel choices and public transport capacity for existing and future residents and businesses by bringing opportunities to travel by rail closer to population centres such as Charfield and Wotton-under-Edge through new stations. From not long after the former station closed in 1965 the proximity of the M5 at junction 14, barely 2.5 miles / 4 km west, has represented the area's access to the strategic transport network and the opportunities which that has offered. Over a half-century later however, societal priorities have re-set and expanding access by more communities to the rail network is to be encouraged for the broad economic, social and environmental benefits which ensue.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Blake BA, MRTPI (Rtd), MTPS  
Railfuture  
Director for Infrastructure & Networks, national Board

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