

Welcome Back!

to the St. Ives Line



The railway line to St. Ives last carried regular passenger trains in 1970. Since then, the line has been kept open for the the passage of a daily freight train carrying about 1000 tonnes of sand. The line and stations would obviously have to be improved in order to operate a passenger service as far as St. Ives, but the the benefits from such a service would be very significant.

Extending the line further to Huntingdon would greatly increase profitability, because longer-distance services could be operated. The new route to Peterborough would follow the 'spine' of the County, and serve two of the fastest growing towns in the region, Huntingdon and St. Ives.

The train you are travelling on today could become a regular feature of Cambridgeshire transport. With your support it will become so.

● *East Anglians need to travel West!* ●

Some reasons why the line should be reopened

- A604 and A45 Northern Bypass are already congested
- The railway would provide an alternative to these routes
- Huge population growth in the Ouse Valley area
- Gives access to the expanding Hi-tech, Industrial and Commercial areas of the city
- Additional transport is provided , but:
 - without the need for more car parking,
 - with minimal contribution to the Greenhouse Effect

Long-distance services

BR's recent policy of providing frequent direct trains on cross-country routes has produced some spectacular growth in passenger numbers. The revenue from such long-distance services would help to keep the finances of the line in good shape, hence the importance of the extension from St. Ives to Huntingdon, and the advantage of using conventional rail vehicles (as opposed to Light Rail).

How might it be paid for?

The RDS has estimated a cost of £4m for a reopening to St. Ives, more to Huntingdon, (but bear in mind that even the latter would cost far less than the amount required to widen the A604 itself). Funding could and should come from a variety of sources: property development, local business, the County Council, BR, etc.

Make your views known

If you think that there is a future for railways providing transport in the County then you should make your local politicians know, by writing to C Robert James and/or your MP and telling them what you think. You might also like to think about whether a new City Centre Station for Cambridge would be desirable, to get to grips with the congestion and parking problems in the very heart of the city.

Railway Development Society

The RDS is a national organisation campaigning for the expansion of the railways in Britain. It is independant of British Rail and of the political Parties. Membership £7.50; apply to Frank Hastilow, Membership Secretary, 49 Irnham Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, B74 2TQ.

● *Why not join the RDS?* ● ●