



“Much, Much More Than a Mere Transport Project!”

Levenmouth Community's Demands over Rail Link Revival

Concerns About Various Amenities Included In Plans

Story: Craig Smith, *Fife Courier Website (D.C. Thomson)*, Tuesday, 3rd. March.

SEVEN MONTHS after *Holyrood* Transport Minister **Michael Matheson** announced the £70m. investment package for the revival of Levenmouth's *Rail Link to the Outside World*, members of the local community have been drawing-up their 'wish-list' for their area, the things they hope to see before, during *and after* the Rail Link is back 'on-track'.

As well as stations in Leven and Cameron Bridge, people who took part in an "engagement workshop", organised by the *Levenmouth Rail Campaign* at their meeting last month at the *F.R.I. Centre* at Methil Docks, made clear their demands for the provision of extra parking for people wanting to drive to stations and then doing the remainder of their commutes, viruses aside.

Not a New Problem... !

The *LMRC* see this as an "essential" provision as part of the rail revival — and car parking even came up at the 1969 "save the line" meeting in Leven, with drivers concerned *even then* about driving to Kirkcaldy, only to be unable to park their cars before *hopefully* catching trains to Edinburgh. The various demands put forward by the group **last month** are listed on the back page of this edition of *LMRC News*, but many need further attention.

There was also a plea for stations to be "easily accessible, clearly connected to other forms of public transport and home to changing and toilet facilities" and these, adds *LMRC News*, should ideally include the new, fully-accessible *Changing Places* rooms for people with disabilities. These are especially-equipped rooms where they can do their natural things, and be assisted in personal care by companions.

"Improvements to Leven High Street and connections with other planned developments along the River Leven, and the proposed *Leven Whales* public art project, were also highlighted as "desirable" in *LMRC Facebook* posts.

**LMRC MARCH MEETING
CANCELLED**

- Please See Back Page for Information and Campaign Contacts



Laying Down Plans -
Left: *Levenmouth Rail Campaigners* and others join Paul McCartney, of *Peter Brett Associates*, at Carberry House in Leven on 20th. April, 2018, to discuss the footpaths, cycle-ways and other amenities planned to come with the Rail Link. The *LMRC* led a similar event recently at their regular meeting at the *Fife Renewables Innovation Centre* at Methil Docks, Leven.

“Encouraging to See So Many Suggestions Coming...”

An *LMRC* representative said: "It is encouraging to see so many suggestions coming from our local community — although it is unfortunate this has had to be organised by the Campaign and not by the authorities responsible".

News of the coming plans and suggestions followed criticism from the *LMRC*, and other campaigners, in mid-February over the fact that a job advertisement for a *Blueprint Group* Project Manager had not yet attracted the right person.

This new role is seen as "a key part of the process" towards having the railway back in use. *LMRC News* has alone taken the liberty of cheekily reproducing [with apologies!] the *Fife Council / MyJobScotland* website advert., on Page 2 of this edition, to try and give it a little extra boost in attracting someone to take up the valuable and high-profile post. In contrast, people sit idle as places such as the *Levenmouth Leisure Centre* (the swimming pool and sports complex in Leven) close because of the Coronavirus.

A site near the *Leisure Centre*, and the former Cameron Bridge station near Windygates, are now seen as front-runners as locations for railway stations for whenever passenger (and freight) services are restored to Levenmouth.

"It's particularly gratifying that people are taking an overall view of all the fantastic projects happening in our area, and clearly understand that the huge sums involved — over £130m. — mean there needs to be a 'big-picture view' of how this is all going to work", the *LMRC* 'rep.' said; "Perhaps that will be the *Blueprint* group's role ... / **Cont. on Page 3 ->**

The S.E.P.A. River Leven SURVEY TO COMPLETE!

(... before Friday, 3rd. April)

YOUR TIME to Complete the on-line **S.E.P.A.** (*Scottish Environment Protection Agency*) "Leven Programme: Connectivity Project Survey" is, unlike the River Leven after all that rain recently, about to dry up! The deadline for this is Friday, 3rd. April. To do the Survey, please visit: theleven@sepa.org.uk.

The Leven Programme is a "regeneration initiative with the environment and people at its heart", its backers, S.E.P.A., say; "It aims to breathe life back into the River Leven, and improve the areas surrounding it, making them great places to live, work and (*one day!*) visit.

"Reconnecting people and places is a key focus of the Programme. Our plans start with *The Connectivity Project*, to improve a 3-mile (5km.) stretch of the River from Levenmouth to Cameron Bridge. This will involve creating a network of paths and cycle ways, which will connect the local communities of Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill, Leven and Windygates. We also plan to deliver environmental river improvements as well as 'unlocking opportunities' to bring areas of vacant and derelict land along the River Leven back in to productive use

"There are a wide range of partners involved in helping to deliver these changes". [See the Website for further information.]

"Why We Are Consulting"

"As part of *The Connectivity Project*, we are looking to identify parts of the River Leven route from Cameron Bridge to Levenmouth that need improving - both in terms of access to, and along, it, as well as its attractiveness as a place to spend time. We are therefore asking you to help us identify what the main issues are that currently reduce your enjoyment of the River Leven - as well as what you'd like to see improved alongside the river to make you spend more time there."

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www.levenmouth.co.uk

Levenmouth Reconnected Blueprint

Situation Vacant (for Rather Too Long!)

This Advert has been added to this edition of *LMRC News* as the job it concerns is a critical role within the *Levenmouth Reconnected Blueprint* ... a major part of plans to reinstate the Levenmouth Rail Link - This is "Pirated", with **Due Apologies**, from the **Fife Council** and **MyJobScotland Jobs Websites**. - We need this job filled soon, so the Rail Link can be Delivered . . . !

Programme Manager

Reference: FIF15700

This had a closure date of 18 February, but has been re-advertised.

Location: Bankhead Depot, Bankhead Park, **Glenrothes**, KY7 6GH.
Salary: £44,282 - £48,430 per year; **Contract Type:** Temporary, for Five Years; **Position Type:** Full-Time - 36 Hours per Week.

Job Description: To lead and deliver an effective, efficient and competent programme of activities and projects in support of the development and implementation of *Levenmouth Reconnected Blueprint*.

Requirements: Educated to *SCQF* Level 9, which includes a Degree or equivalent. Chartered Member of a Professional Institution. Post-Graduate qualification in Project Management desirable. Significant experience implementing large or organisation-wide projects, with the ability to manage complex inter-related delivery plans.

Responsibilities: These include input to the development, implementation, monitoring and review of the *Levenmouth Reconnected Blueprint* with specialist tasks including:-

- Ensuring the successful implementation of the *Levenmouth Reconnected Blueprint* programme, working with both internal and external partners to identify, instigate, oversee and ensure reporting on contributing projects;
- Prioritising and identifying further opportunities for local and regional working which could include neighbouring local authorities, *SUSTRANS*, *SEStran*, *SEPA*, *Visit Scotland*, third-sector, local businesses, etc. (... , Oh!..., and the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign!*?);
- Ensuring that the economic growth is realised in Levenmouth and the Mid-Fife area, and communities in Fife, through the planning, development and construction of the new railway link, *active travel* and local bus service improvements.

The Individual: The successful applicant will have significant experience in economic development / roads / transportation functions and activities of managing performance and delivering results; promote a 'can-do' culture; encourage and have experience and knowledge of innovation and continuous improvement, sustainable economic / social regeneration activities, strategic transport issues, and economic and climate-change issues.

Applications for this job cannot be made online. For further information, please contact: John Mitchell, Service Manager - Asset Management and Sustainable Transport - john.mitchell@fife.gov.uk

The job-pack for this vacancy is attached at the bottom of the *Fife Council Jobs Internet* page. It offers more-detailed information about the job and the type of person we are looking for. For 'Helpful Hints' when applying to work for us, and details of our 'How We Work Matters Behaviour Framework', please click at the bottom of the Webpage.

River Leven Community Event Postponed

THIS EVENT, which *had* been planned at the *Caledonian Hotel*, in Leven, on Saturday, 28th. March, has now been **POSTPONED** due to the *Coronavirus*. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause - but the health and well-being of the local community is now our main priority.

LMRC News Scheduling

This Edition is Dated **March and February**, then it's Bi-Monthly from April Onwards

DESPITE TELLING Some Members of the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign* about plans to go 'seasonal', *LMRC News* will instead keep to the **bi-monthly** schedule announced towards the end of last year.

This Edition 61 of *LMRC News* was so badly delayed that it has been re-dated to 'February and March, 2020', but will now be followed as soon as possible by an April edition, then we go bi-monthly coming in the "even-numbered" months - June, August, October, December, February and April.

'Thanks!' to Stephen Gethins

THE LEVENMOUTH RAIL Campaign would formally like to thank Stephen Gethins for his fine work with them. He served as East Fife's MSP from 2015 to last December.)

Little or No Sport ... ?

Keep the Ball in Their Court !!!

CAMPAIGN CALL

LOBBY YOUR MSP

... .. Say LMRC, Please **Don't Let Them Forget Us** amid this Crisis!

ALTHOUGH, of Course, we now have the wonderful prospect of the **Levenmouth Rail Link** being reinstated, the **LMRC** will remain active and continue to keep watch on progress. **If you have concerns at any stage**, you should still write to their MSP, MP or Local Councillor.

ESTABLISHED SOME Ten Years Ago, in North-Western England, **"Totally Locally"** is a campaign that gives people the incentive to avoid international or national brands, or the internet, and, as its title suggests, sets out to encourage them to support their independent shops and local makers or suppliers more.

Totally Locally has gone from strength to strength, and now has participating cities, towns and communities round the world, including Australia, the United States of America, and several countries in mainland Europe.

In 2014, Burntisland, some 15 miles (24 kilometres) south-westward down the Fife coast from Levenmouth, joined this initiative - assisted in the process by Claire Baker, one of the Holyrood MSP's who has since been involved with the *Leven-Mouth Rail Campaign*.

Claire posted this to the **'Totally Locally' Facebook Page** on 18th. February, 2014: "Last week I was delighted to be asked to launch Burntisland's *Totally Locally* campaign. The event, which has also been launched with a *dance-mob* and the unveiling of a new map of the town, aims to promote the high street in Burntisland.

"*Totally Locally* has been successful throughout the U.K., having initially been launched in West Yorkshire, and will hopefully be a positive experience for the town. It is a great opportunity to promote local businesses that have signed-up, and boost *foot-fall* in the high street. I know just how important the high street can be to the local economy, and it was great to see it so busy on Saturday and through the week."

Other backers of *Totally Locally Burntisland* have included, or still include, David Torrance - another *L.M.R.C.* supporter - Jackie Baillie, Fiona McLeod, Liz Smith, Roderick Campbell, Richard Lyle, Jayne Baxter, Colin Beattie, and many others.

It was estimated that, if every adult in Burntisland spent just £5 a week in local businesses, an extra £1.4 million a year would stay in the local economy. Carlisle, Scarborough, Grantown-on-Spey, Saltair, Bute, West Kilbride, and Durham are just some in the group; will Leven join them...?

Campaign That Could Help to 'Save' Leven High Street

Burntisland in Scheme; 'Totally Locally' Grows as It Offers Shoppers Incentives to Avoid National Brands



Main Image: Penrith, Cumbria. Rather like Burntisland, Fife, this market-town on the edge of the Lake District has now joined the *Totally Locally* scheme.



IF EVERY ADULT IN THE PENRITH AREA SPENT JUST £5 PER WEEK IN THEIR LOCAL INDEPENDENT SHOPS, INSTEAD OF ONLINE OR AT THE BIG SUPERMARKETS, IT WOULD BE WORTH AN EXTRA £3.2 MILLION PER YEAR GOING INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY. WHICH MEANS MORE JOBS, BETTER FACILITIES & A NICER PLACE FOR US ALL TO LIVE. MAKES YOU THINK DOESN'T IT?

Top-Right: The scenic shoreline, and a travelling fair, at Burntisland, in an image from the *Microsoft "Clip-Art" Library*. - **Original 'Credits' Unclear.** **Above-Right:** The *Totally Locally* poster for Penrith, Cumbria, puts its message across very positively. **Above-Left,** MSP's Claire Baker — who formally launched the Burntisland scheme in 2014 — and David Torrance, who supported it. ... Both, of course, have since been keen supporters of the *L.M.R.C.*

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Levenmouth Community's Demands for Rail Link Amenities

◀- **Cont. from Front Page** \ ... but, as we've seen, if that doesn't happen, then our local folk have demonstrated that 'we're perfectly capable of performing it ourselves!'

Cabinet Secretary Michael Matheson "instructed *Fife Council* to create a 'blueprint group'", *Fife Courier* said on Saturday, 29th. February; "... which would make sure that the local community was best-prepared to benefit from the Rail Link once it is operational" - It is a "perceived" delay, the *Fife Courier* also suggests, that has left "campaigners enraged by ... delays" to the Rail Link.

Suggestions for car park sites have included land at the old power station - so, ironically, this could again help to sustain the Rail Link as it did, for freight trains anyway, up 'til its 2001 closure - or "park-and-choose" facilities at either Silverburn or Blacketside, east of Leven.

Large-scale provision of parking at Cameron Bridge is also needed to cope with extensive new housing that is planned west of Leven, according to the consultation.

A further controversial, but frequent, comment was about the "partial removal of pedestrianisation", along with "possible canopy cover" for Leven High Street. Several other people called for "clear links to the promenade part of town, and to the [long-distance] *Fife Coastal Path* and *Pilgrims' Way*".

NEW FEATURE For LMRC NEWS Coming in April '20 ... NEWS From Other Local Campaigns!

'REINSTATE THE LEVEN-**EDINBURGH** RAIL-LINK !'

LMRC **NOT** MEETING ...

**LevenMouth Rail Campaign
are Sorry to Announce
that, due to Coronavirus,
their Monthly "Action
Group" Meeting at the Fife
Renewables Innovation
Centre; 7 p.m. on Tuesday,
31st. March, 2020, *is*
CANCELLED**

**All Dates Subject to Cancellation
or Alteration due to "Covid-19" ...**

LMRC Action Group Meeting
— Tuesday, 28th. April, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting
— Tuesday, 26th. May, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting
— Tuesday, 30th. June, 6.30 p.m.;

**There Will Be NO Meeting in July
anyway, due to Holidays.**

LMRC Action Group Meeting
— Tuesday, 25th. August, 6.30 p.m.;

**For Other Dates, Events
and Details**

LMRC Contacts   

CLEAR Buckhaven, 36 College St., Buckhaven,
KY8 1JY. - [Opposite Library and Council Offices]

E-Mail: LMRC@mail.com 'Phone: 01592-713078

Facebook and **Twitter** - Enter via our
Website: www.levenmouth.co.uk

Latest **LMRC** "Workshop" The Ideas for Campaigners to Follow-Up...

Story: **LMRC Facebook Page**, Wednesday, 26th. February.:

THE MAIN Activity during the February meeting of the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign*, on Tuesday evening, 25th. February, was a "workshop" in which the Levenmouth community's needs and demands (other than the Rail Link itself) were discussed. Here are just a few of them...

- Electrification (or "electrification-ready") to ensure a speedier, more-efficient service;
- As much dual tracking as possible, to minimise service delays;
- Twice-hourly services — and an adequate evening and weekend service;
- High priority to bus connections to and from the two stations and adjusting bus routes across Levenmouth to ensure good links;
- Integrated timetabling and ticketing (such as "Plus-Bus" or *Oyster-Cards*) to ease and make affordable multi-modal travel ... and no timetable alterations (by either train or bus companies) at short-notice;
- A short freight spur to *Diageo's* Banbeath plant is vital to reduce local HGV traffic. The extension of freight to Methil Docks and the *Fife Energy Park* is also necessary, and easily-achievable,
- The preferred, perhaps only, station locations should be at Cameron Bridge (previous site) and Leven (under/close to Bawbee Bridge) - generally agreed but consideration is needed to improve the link in Leven with Leven Bus Station (scope for an underpass?), and to mobility access
- Greatly improved cycle / footpath networks (and bike parking / charging at stations). In conjunction with the River Leven Project, this probably means at least two new cycle / pedestrian bridges spanning the railway and the River Leven.
- Levenmouth and, especially, Leven needs to gear-up its tourism and High Street choice and appeal.

Some key issues to be resolved include – the location of adequate Park-and-Ride facilities - probably at Cameron Bridge - parking-space is limited at Leven; While bus connections and car parking are needed at both stations, the main focus at Leven could be the bus station connections, while, at Cameron Bridge, would be the main Park-and-Ride facility and a "multi-modal" freight terminal.

LMRC News is Produced by **ALISTAIR AYNSCOUGH** at Colinsburgh, Fife. Transmitted by **Adobe PDF** and e-Mail to *LevenMouth Rail Campaign*.



From the Creator of
**'Brougham
Hall News'**

Founded in Penrith, Cumbria, in December 1986.

www.broughamhall.co.uk