

# THE STRAWBERRY LINE ASSOCIATION

www.thestrawberryline.org.uk  
(Working group of 'The Strawberry Line Society'  
Registered Charity No. 284005)



1 Portway  
Wells  
Somerset  
BA5 2BA

26 April 2015

Dear Candidate,

As you probably know, the Strawberry Line Association is a federation of community groups looking to extend the existing traffic-free path that runs from Yatton to Cheddar to include Wells, and then Shepton Mallet. Details of the proposals can be found on our website at <http://www.thestrawberryline.org.uk>. The project has considerable public support shown by our online petition which has gathered an incredible **3,500 signatures** in just three months.

Although we have sought to work closely with the public authorities, and are not looking to the County for finance we have become increasingly concerned at the reluctance of Somerset County Council to submit the planning application for the path painstakingly prepared by their own officers. Their unwillingness to engage with others to take the project forward is a major impediment.

Supporters of our campaign are now wondering how the District Council might help realise their ambitions. As we consider the prospect of submitting smaller planning applications at District level we are interested in seeing who is prepared to go beyond bland statements of support 'in principle' and is prepared to work with us to make things happen..

We therefore ask you on behalf of the petition signatories whether you are as eager as they are to see an off road path, following as far as possible the route of the old railway line, come into being. If elected as District councillor, would you support a Strawberry Line Steering Group comprised of local councillors and community activists to move the project forward? In North Somerset and BANES, local councillors and traffic-free path campaigners form a dynamic union – why not here in Somerset?

This letter has been sent to every district council candidate whose ward contains part of the disused railway line. We intend to publish all replies on our website so that the general public can identify those candidates who are willing to join us in getting the Strawberry Line path built, and very much hope that we will be able to include you in that number.

With best wishes,

Richard Jones  
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