

My name is Duncan Hounsell of the independent Saltford Station Campaign. Everyone in Saltford who wishes the station re-opened welcomes the announcement by Cllr David Bellotti, B&NES Lib Dem Cabinet member for resources, that £250,000 is included in the Lib Dem proposed 2015/16 budget for B&NES Council to take the re-opening of Saltford Station forward to the next stages of project development.

All developments on the railway have to follow Network Rail's 8-stage process called the GRIP process. The first four stages are about planning and the final four about implementation. Re-opening Saltford station is about at stage 2. The promised new investment will take the project on to GRIP stages 3 and 4 and make the project eligible to bid for national or regional funding. These stages involve more detailed work on costs, design, finance, as well as full engagement with the rail industry.

This is fantastic support for a Saltford station from the Lib Dem Council group and represents a major advance in making the station a reality. It represents an important milestone in our popular campaign to reopen Saltford station which is part of the MetroWest rail project providing transport solutions and economic growth in the Bristol-Bath sub-region.

The re-opening of Saltford station with its large existing car-park is not just good for Saltford's hard-pressed commuters but plays a part in reducing congestion along the A4 Corridor.

Saltford station will make a contribution to the emerging Transport Strategies for Bath and for Keynsham. The campaign slogan has been "Saltford station – bring it back". This should now be, with this support from B&NES Council, "Saltford station- **bring**ing it back!"

Duncan Hounsell