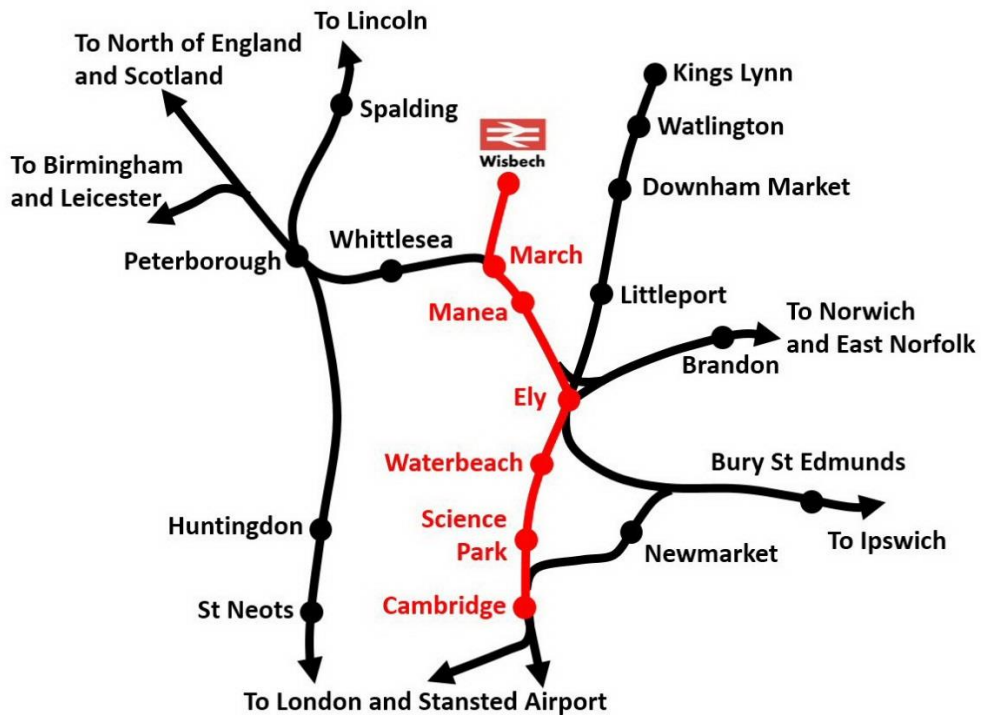




Wisbech Rail Reopening Campaign Petition

July 2013

3784 people support the reopening of the railway line to Wisbech with a through rail service from Wisbech to Cambridge





Wisbech Rail Reopening Petition

The Wisbech Rail Reopening Campaign petition organised by Railfuture has gathered over 3000 supporters.

The petition asked people to sign for **"I support the reopening of the railway line to Wisbech" alongside a proposal to reopen the line and operate a through service from Wisbech to Cambridge.**

Publicity for the petition was targeted locally as it is a scheme which needs to be justified on a local basis, so the majority of the supporters are from the Wisbech and the surrounding area, although as the petition is available to sign nationally there are a number of supporters from all over the country.

Leaflets were distributed to every household in Wisbech, with some leafleting of other areas who would benefit from the service such as Manea and March.

The majority of responses were via the petition website <http://wisbechrail.org.uk/> but paper petition forms have also been distributed and signed.

There has been huge positive local interest, as shown by local press and media coverage and cross party political support at all tiers of government.

The following pages contain a record of everyone who has supported the scheme, some statistics and maps showing the geographical spread of support from the campaign, copies of the leaflets which were distributed, and some pages from the website and media coverage giving some background to the campaign.

We urge Cambridgeshire County Council to take note of this outstanding level of support and push the work which they are already doing to reopen the line through to completion leading to Wisbech being directly connected to the railway network with a through service to Cambridge.

Contents

This petition response covers the following:

1. Petition statistics
2. Petition Responses by Ward in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk
3. Map of Petition Responses
4. On-line Petition Responses via wisbechrail.org.uk
5. Paper Petition Responses
6. Individual Petition Responses

Appendix A – Leaflet delivered to households in Wisbech

Appendix B – Leaflet delivered to households in Manea and near the station in March

Appendix C – Petition at <http://wisbechrail.org.uk/petition/>

Appendix D – Home page at <http://wisbechrail.org.uk/>

Appendix E –Resources

1. Petition Statistics

3784 supporters in total

- 3205 from the on-line petition
- 537 from paper petitions
- 42 from individual responses

Of the 3205 from the on-line petition

- 2365 from Cambridgeshire with 2223 of these from Fenland District
- 456 from Norfolk with 424 of these from King's Lynn and West Norfolk District

2. Petition Responses by Ward in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk

The following records the number of responses by ward for places with 5 or more supporters per ward.

383 Hill Ward Fenland District

347 Roman Bank Ward Fenland District

220 Waterlees Ward Fenland District

190 Peckover Ward Fenland District

178 Medworth Ward Fenland District

170 Clarkson Ward Fenland District

145 Kirkgate Ward Fenland District

137 Emneth with Outwell Ward King's Lynn and West Norfolk District

108 Elm and Christchurch Ward Fenland District

104 Staithe Ward Fenland District

91 Mershe Lande Ward King's Lynn and West Norfolk District

89 Parson Drove and Wisbech St. Mary Ward Fenland District

89 Manea Ward Fenland District

66 Walton Ward King's Lynn and West Norfolk District

55 March North Ward Fenland District

37 March West Ward Fenland District

36 March East Ward Fenland District

22 Walpole Ward King's Lynn and West Norfolk District

19 Upwell and Delph Ward King's Lynn and West Norfolk District

12 Petersfield Ward Cambridge District

12 Spellowfields Ward King's Lynn and West Norfolk District

10 Ely North Ward East Cambridgeshire District

10 Doddington Ward Fenland District

7 Wimblington Ward Fenland District

7 Wenneye Ward Fenland District

7 The Mills Ward Fenland District

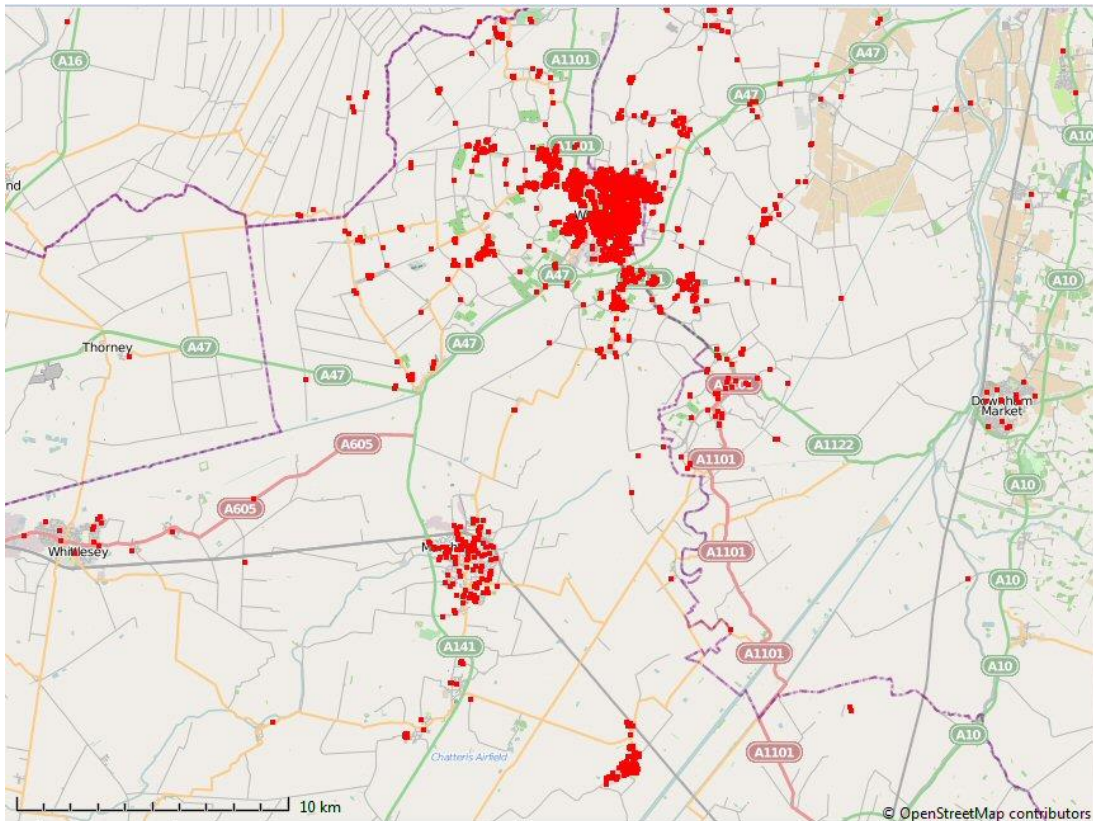
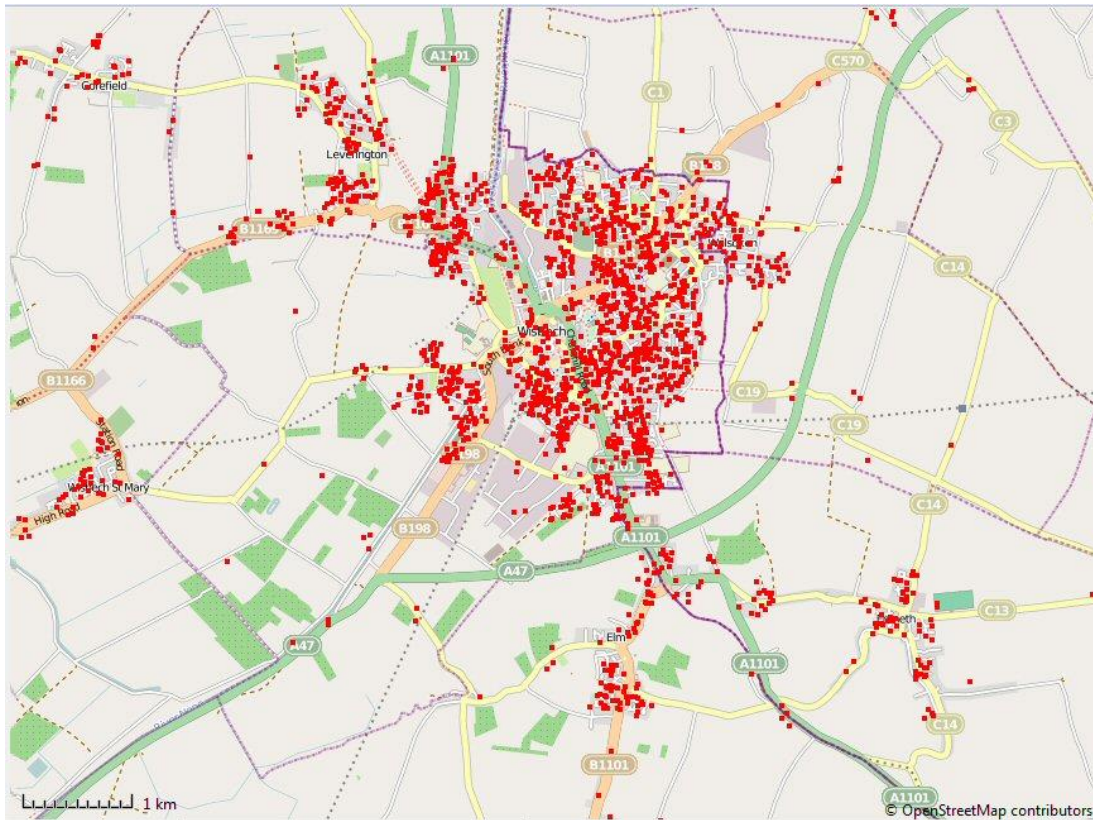
7 St. Lawrence Ward King's Lynn and West Norfolk District

7 Abbey Ward Cambridge District

- 6 Papworth and Elsworth Ward South Cambridgeshire District
- 6 Gaywood North Bank Ward King's Lynn and West Norfolk District
- 6 Gaywood Chase Ward King's Lynn and West Norfolk District
- 5 Histon and Impington Ward South Cambridgeshire District
- 5 East Chesterton Ward Cambridge District
- 5 Downham Old Town Ward King's Lynn and West Norfolk District
- 5 Benwick Fenland District
- 5 Bassenhally Ward Fenland District

3. Map of Petition Responses

The maps below show the support, centered on Wisbech but also from March and beyond. Support from March will also be important to the reopening scheme if the service from Wisbech is to go beyond there to Manea, Ely and into Cambridge.



4. On-line Petition Responses via wisbechrail.org.uk – 3205 supporters

Names and postcodes, with responses in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk County Councils also including the ward.

[names redacted]

5. Paper Petition Responses – 537 supporters

[names redacted]

6. Individual Petition Responses – 42 supporters

[names redacted]

Wisbech Rail Reopening Campaign



Reopening the seven miles of railway line between Wisbech and March will create an economic stimulus, encourage new development and improve transport links between Wisbech and the surrounding towns and cities.

Please sign the petition at
wisbechrail.org.uk

Wisbech and surrounding area is relatively impoverished. Unemployment is high compared with the south of Cambridgeshire. Services such as health and education have below average outcomes. The perception is that the town has visibly stagnated both socially and economically since the railway closed in 1968. The town and surrounding area have a population of around 31,000, one of the largest in the country without local access to a railway station.

Why build a new rail link?

The number of passengers travelling by train has increased continuously over the last 15 years, and is now at its highest level since 1920. In some parts of the country former railway lines have been reopened and have been a great success, both in terms of the numbers using the new services and also in the economic stimulus they have provided to the local area. An example is Alloa in Clackmannanshire which has a population 19,000 and route length from Stirling of seven miles. It reopened in 2008 and the numbers of people using the hourly train service is already 394,000 per year. There are other equally successful reopenings and we believe Wisbech would soon achieve similar figures.

Although using the old railway as a heritage route has been suggested, a proper railway as part of the national network will bring far wider benefits in terms of jobs and access to the region.

Could Wisbech be next?

The line to Wisbech was used by freight services until 2000. The majority of the track is still in place, although it would need to be replaced to allow new trains to run. Existing level crossings would need to be upgraded to modern standards.

A direct train service to Cambridge is proposed with a journey time of around 40 minutes, much faster than a car journey or existing bus service. Trains would call at March, Manea, Ely and the new station at the Cambridge Science Park. Such a service would improve access to jobs and education and help connect Fenland with the rest of Cambridgeshire. Passengers would be able to connect with other train services to London, other centres in East Anglia, the Midlands and the North West.

What is happening now?

Wisbech Town Council supports the rail reopening. Cambridgeshire County Council is carrying out feasibility studies into the rail scheme. The first part of the study, looking at operating costs and likely usage, will report early in 2013. A second item of work will look at the costs of reopening including the location of the new station in Wisbech and how to cross the A47. This will report later in 2013.

If there is a good business case, it is possible that the rail reopening could be included within the one of the new rail franchises serving the area when this is let in a few years' time.

Official Supporters

"Wisbech 2020 vision" by Fenland District Council, Stephen Barclay MP and Cambridgeshire County Council

"Many actions have been started, delivered or accelerated even before the formal launch of the Vision. An expert study on the viability of Wisbech rail connectivity has been commissioned – recognising the importance that the transport network has for the future of the town."

"Wisbech 2020 is a bold vision, but one that requires collaboration amongst partners and stakeholders, and lobbying to central government and external funders. Funding will be a major challenge and it is only by working together that we can build a sustainable economic future for the town."

Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011

"...the Transport and Access Group are keen to see the line between Wisbech and March re-opened. The Council supports further work by the Association of Train Operating Companies Connecting Communities Report and Fenland District Council to assess the costs, benefits and feasibility of the scheme."

Association of Train Operating Companies

"Connecting Communities – Expanding Access to the Rail Network"

"Stations: Wisbech Town; possible additional park and ride station adjacent to A47."

Catchment area: a station at Wisbech would also serve a wider catchment area of villages and towns such as Long Sutton, to the north."

Steve Barclay MP for North East Cambridgeshire

"One of the biggest problems faced by those of us who live in North East Cambridgeshire is transport links. Rail services are key to a rural area like ours and a priority which I am working on closely with Ministers, Train Operating Companies and other key stakeholders is how we deliver a better rail service. There are four key targets:..... 4. Securing a feasibility study for getting trains back to Wisbech in the longer term, as Wisbech used to have two train stations and now has none."

Please sign the
petition at
wisbechrail.org.uk



to urge the County Council to
get the line open soon

Twitter: @WisbechRail

Facebook: WisbechRail



Leading the Wisbech Rail Reopening Campaign

Railfuture is Britain's only national independent organisation campaigning for rail passengers and freight.

www.railfuture.org.uk @railfuture @railwatch

Railfuture campaigns for cheap and convenient rail services for everyone; better links for buses, bikes and pedestrians; policies to get more freight on to rail; new lines, stations and freight terminals - a better rail service and a bigger rail system for both passengers and freight.



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Reopening the seven miles of railway line between Wisbech and March will create an economic stimulus, encourage new development and improve transport links between Wisbech, March, Manea and the surrounding towns and cities.

Please sign the petition at wisbechrail.org.uk

Wisbech and surrounding area have a population of around 31,000, one of the largest in the country without local access to a railway station. Nearby March and Manea add another 20,000 who would benefit from a reopened railway.

Why build a new rail link?

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wisbechrail.org.uk



to urge the County Council to
get the line open soon.

A through service to Cambridge would give Wisbech, March and Manea improved access to jobs and education and help connect Fenland with the rest of Cambridgeshire.

Or sign the petition below and post it to:
Wisbechrail, 7 Hollymount, Cambridge CB1 1QD

Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Signature:	

Petition forms can be requested from the above address.

Twitter: @WisbechRail

Facebook: WisbechRail

railfuture

Leading the Wisbech Rail Reopening Campaign

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www.railfuture.org.uk @railfuture @railwatch

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Petition

Please support the the campaign to reopen the railway line to Wisbech by signing the petition below with your name and email address. Your postcode is required so the petition can be presented with information about places which support the scheme.

If you would like to receive updates about the campaign please tick “Send me updates by email”.

For people who are not on-line, there is a paper copy of the petition form at Wisbech Library. Petition forms can be downloaded from the [resources page](#).

**“I support the reopening of the
railway line to Wisbech”**

Name (required)

Email

Postcode (required)

Send me updates by email

Submit »

Your email address will not be passed to any third parties, and will only be used to contact you if you have opted to receive updates by email. The petition data will be stored on computer for use by the Wisbech Rail Reopening Campaign as described above.

Wisbech Rail Reopening Campaign

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About the Campaign

Please [sign the petition](#) to support the reopening of the railway to Wisbech.

**Sign the
Wisbech Rail Reopening petition**



Re-connecting Wisbech



Reopening the 7 miles of railway line between Wisbech and March will create an economic stimulus to the area to help encourage new development and improve transport links between Wisbech and surrounding towns and cities.

Wisbech and surrounding area is relatively impoverished. Unemployment is high

compared with the south of Cambridgeshire. Services such as health and education, have below average outcomes. The perception is that the town has visibly stagnated both socially and economically since the railway closed in 1968. The town and surrounding area have a population of around 31,000, one of the largest in the country without local access to a railway station.

Why build a new rail line?

WISBECH RAIL ON TWITTER

3000 supporters for the Wisbech rail reopening. Now leafleting homes in Manea and March. Both will benefit from a Wisbech to Cambridge link

[3 weeks ago](#)

Cambridgeshire station reopenings bbc.co.uk/news/uk-englan... "the railway line between March and Wisbech in the north...also being considered"

[1 month ago](#)

RT @Railfuture: Peter Wakefield of @Railfuture East Anglia, was on @BBCCambs Tues am re: @CambsCC Long Term Strategy report: Wisbech reopen...

[1 month ago](#)

Reopened railway to Wisbech on map of Cambridgeshire CC's rail network aspirations wisbechrail.org.uk/learn-

Why build a new rail link?

The number of passengers travelling by train has been growing for many years; improved train services, concern over rising fuel prices and road traffic congestion have contributed to this. In some parts of the country former railway lines have been re-opened and have been a great success, both in terms of the numbers using the new services but also in the economic stimulus they have provided to the local area. Some examples are given below:

Town	Population	New track to re-open route	Date of re-opening	Number of passengers in 2011
Ebbw Vale	18,500	18 miles	Feb 2008	247,000
Alloa	19,000	7 miles	May 2008	394,000
Corby	61,000	5.5 miles	Feb 2009	176,700

Although using the old railway as a heritage route has been suggested, a proper railway as part of the national network will bring far wider benefits in terms of jobs and access to the region.

Could Wisbech be next?

Rail passenger services to Wisbech ended in 1968. The line continued to be used for freight services until the 1990s. The majority of the track is still in place, although it would need to be replaced to allow new trains to run. Existing level crossings would need to be upgraded to modern standards. As it is highly desirable to have a new station as close to the town centre as possible a method of crossing the A47 would have to be developed.

A direct train service to Cambridge is proposed with a journey time of around 40 minutes, much faster than a car journey or existing bus service. Trains would call at March, Ely and the new station at the Cambridge Science Park. Such a service would improve access to jobs and education and help connect Fenland with the rest of Cambridgeshire. Passengers would be able to connect with other train services to London, other centres in East Anglia, the Midlands and the North West.

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If there is a good business case, it is possible that the rail reopening could be included within the one of the new rail franchises serving the area when this is let in a few years time.

To learn more about the reopening scheme [click here](#).

Add your support

Railfuture is asking for all those that agree with the rail reopening to [sign our petition](#):

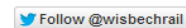


Cambridgeshire CC's rail network aspirations wisbechrail.org.uk/learn-more/pub... <http://t.co/vo9aGuGFco>

[1 month ago](#)

Update from the Wisbech Rail Reopening Campaign wisbechrail.org.uk/news/ Latest developments, leaflet distribution, and over 2500 supporters

[1 month ago](#)



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Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/WisbechRail>

Website

<http://wisbechrail.org.uk/> (Home page)

<http://wisbechrail.org.uk/petition/> (Petition)

<http://wisbechrail.org.uk/news/press/> (Press)

<http://wisbechrail.org.uk/learn-more/publications/> (Publications related to Wisbechrail)

<http://wisbechrail.org.uk/resources/> (Campaign resources)