Appendix 2 – Letters of Support

From	Page
Bath and North East Somerset Council	2
Bath Spa University	3
Chippenham Town Council	4
Corsham Area Board	5
Corsham Chamber of Commerce	6
Corsham Civic Societies	7
MOD Corsham	8
Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council	9
Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership	10
VisitBath and Destination Bristol	11
Visit Wiltshire	12
West of England Combined Authority	13

Councillor Dine Romero
Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath. BA1 1JG
www.bathnes.gov.uk
Email: Dine_Romero@bathnes.gov.uk
Telephone: 01225 477038
Our ref: DR/EP
Your ref:

Mr Robert Murphy
Principal Transport
& Development Manager
(West and South West)
Correspondence by email
Robert.Murphy@wiltshire.gov.uk

1st March 2021

Dear Mr Murphy

I am happy to support the Corsham Station bid on the 'Restoring Your Railways Ideas Fund'. It fits closely with our own aspirations and plans to develop the local economy while reducing road congestion, pollution and improving the general environment.

Better use of the rail network by improving local accessibility, is a positive green initiative which actively promotes local enterprise and provides new opportunities for sustainable growth in employment, education and tourism. It will further bring together communities here in the West of England in realising our full potential on the national stage.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Dine Romero
Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council

cc: Steve Abbott, Chairman, Corsham Town Council

From: r.rushmer@bathspa.ac.uk on behalf of John Strachan
To: Murphy, Robert
Cc: David Martin
Subject: Corsham Railway Station
Date: 01 March 2021 12:42:21

Dear Mr Murphy,

I write in my capacity as Director of the Corsham Court campus of Bath Spa University and someone who has worked in Corsham for the last six years. On behalf of the University I would like to endorse the idea of providing a new railway station in Corsham on the Bristol to London main line. I would also strongly support Corsham Town Council's renewed bid for funding towards a study into providing a new railway station. As a significant employer in Corsham an improved railway service would help both our Corsham employees and our University postgraduate students whose study is based in the town.

Yours Sincerely,
John

--
Professor John Strachan
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)
Dean of Graduate College
Bath Spa University
Corsham Court
Corsham SN13 0BZ

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CHIPPENHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Improving the quality of town life

Robert Murphy
Principal Transport and Development Manager (West and South)
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Rd
Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

01 March 2021

Dear Robert,

Ref: Supporting Statement - Corsham Station Bid

Corsham is making a renewed bid for funding towards a study into providing a new railway station on the Bristol to London main line. They believe a new station and service would make a significant contribution to reducing both road congestion and air pollution particularly in Bath, Bristol and Swindon - which are the major centres for employment, retail, leisure and tourism for the increasing population of Corsham Town and the surrounding rural area.

If successful, a new station for Corsham would only make a modest impact on direct rail journey times between Bristol and London but would significantly reduce overall journey times for many passengers travelling to existing stations in Chippenham and Bath. It would also reduce road commuting to Bristol and Swindon which are already congested. The changing way in which lives will be led in the post Covid-19 era means we have an opportunity to positively improve both travel experience and the environment for local people and those in the big cities we depend on for employment, retail and leisure facilities. This benefit will be amplified as the population of Corsham grows.

The MOD which is the largest employer in Corsham (and still expanding) has significant operational links with both Bristol and London. An improved local rail service would greatly benefit them in terms of their travel plans, as well as benefitting residents in terms of reduced congestion on their local rural road system.

On behalf of Chippenham Town Council, I would like to confirm our support for this bid, which will benefit the Chippenham community and the environment through reduced congestion.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Smith MBA LLB (Hons) CMgr FCMI FSLCC
Chief Executive

Chippenham Town Council

The Town Hall, High Street
Chippenham, Wiltshire
SN15 3ER

01249 446699
enquiries@chippenham.gov.uk
chippenham.gov.uk

From:	Mathew, Brian
To:	Murphy, Robert
Cc:	dmartin@corsham.gov.uk; Whalley, Philip; Steve Abbott; Hopkinson, Ruth; Anderson, Ben
Subject:	Corsham Station Bid
Date:	27 February 2021 21:48:00

Dear Robert,

As Chair of the Corsham Area Board, which represents Corsham and the surrounding villages of Box, Colerne, Lacock and Neston, I am delighted to be able to give my support to this important application. The campaign to get Corsham Station reopened has continued since it was closed in the Beeching Cuts of 1965. Today the case has never been more pressing given the substantial growth in the size of the local community and the significant traffic congestion on local arterial routes such as the A4.

A reopened station would be a huge asset to the local economy, promote enterprise and create new opportunites for sustainible employment, education and tourism. There is also an important environmental imperative. In 2019 Wiltshire Council acknowledged the Climate Emergency and is determined to be carbon neutral by 2030. Reducing car movements and making greater use of rail transport will help us achieve this vital objective.

I wholeheartedly endorse this submission

Brian

Dr Brian Mathew
Wiltshire Unitary Councillor for Box and Colerne
& Chair of Corsham Area Board
Tel: 07771607983

Cc Cllr Phil Whalley, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Ben Anderson, Cllr Steve Abbott, Dave Martin Chief Executive Corsham Town Council

From:	Ben Leighton
To:	Murphy, Robert
Cc:	"Steve Abbott"
Subject:	Corsham Station
Date:	01 March 2021 09:01:19

Dear Robert,

The Corsham Chamber of Commerce are very happy to support the Corsham Station bid on the 'Restoring Your Railways Ideas Fund'.

It fits closely with our own hopes for Corsham to grow and will help plans to develop the local economy while reducing road congestion, pollution and improving the general environment.

Better use of the rail network by improving local accessibility, is a positive green initiative which actively promotes local enterprise and provides new opportunities for sustainable growth in employment, education and tourism. It will further bring together communities here in the West of England in realising our full potential on the national stage.

Kind regards,

Ben Leighton
Vice President
Corsham Chamber of Commerce

From:	Pat Say
To:	Murphy, Robert
Cc:	Steve Abbott
Subject:	FW: Corsham Rail station - Bid for Funding.
Date:	02 March 2021 16:42:16

Hello Robert, please find below the Corsham Civic Societies supporting statement.
Regards
Pat Whalley
CCS Committee member.

"We understand that an application for funding is to be made in order to further Corsham's need for a new rail station.
Corsham Civic Society has long been an advocate of this proposal, and we cannot stress enough the benefits this would bring to the town.
Corsham has become somewhat a 'buffer' town for residents who work in Bath, Bristol, Swindon and London, and together with the continued presence of the MOD Joint Services, there is a regular need for people to be able to travel in an environmentally friendly manner, avoiding the creation of traffic congestion and pollution.
These major towns also provide our population with opportunities for leisure and retail which are not always available on our doorstep, and for the same reasons, a convenient train ride would enhance their experience.
We strongly support this application for funding."

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:	Spreadbury-Clews, Nigel B2 (ISS En-Corp-HOE AsstHd-BMCS)
To:	Murphy, Robert
Cc:	Steve Abbott; Kirsty Gilby; Baker, Mark C2 (ISS En-Corp-HOE TravelMgr-BMCS); Phillips, David; David Martin
Subject:	20210305- Corsham Railway Station
Date:	05 March 2021 11:18:42

Robert

Just for introductions I am the Head of Establishment for the major MoD site located in Corsham which has around 3000 staff allocated to it and is classed as a MoD strategic site.

Supporting Statement Corsham Station Bid

I understand that Corsham is making a renewed bid for funding towards a study into providing a new railway station on the Bristol to London main line. We believe a new station and service would make a significant contribution to reducing both road congestion and air pollution particularly in Bath, Bristol and Swindon - which are the major centres for employment, retail, leisure and tourism for the increasing population of the Town and the surrounding rural area. We have numerous visitors to the MoD Corsham site who would if there was a railway station use that mode of transport as part of the MoD's greening government initiative which is really important to us.

If successful, a new station for Corsham would only make a modest impact on direct rail journey times between Bristol and London but would significantly reduce overall journey times for many passengers travelling to existing stations in Chippenham and Bath. The changing way in which lives will be led in the post Covid-19 era means we have an opportunity to positively improve both travel experience and the environment for local people and those in the big cities we depend on for employment, retail and leisure facilities. This benefit will be amplified as the population on our site grows with the possible redeployment of some green Army units to the area linked to large scale investment.

MOD which is by far the largest employer in Corsham (and we are still expanding) has significant operational links with Bristol, London, Portsmouth and Cheltenham. An improved local rail service would greatly benefit us in terms of travel plans, as well as benefitting local residents in terms of reduced congestion on our local rural road system.

My team have been supporting the Town Council in this bid for a number of years and will continue to do so.

Happy to discuss.

R

Nigel Spreadbury-Clews
DD HoE
D3 Bldg 405
MoD Corsham
External:0306 7702407
Skype: 0300 151 3008

Royal
Wootton Bassett
Town Council

We honour those who serve

Robert Murphy
Principal Transport and Development Manager (West and South)
Sustainable Transport Group
Wiltshire Council
Robert.Murphy@wiltshire.gov.uk

1st March 2021

Dear Robert

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council are willing to support the Corsham Station bid on the 'Restoring Your Railways Ideas Fund'. It fits closely with our own aspirations and plans to develop the local economy while reducing road congestion, pollution and improving the general environment.

Better use of the rail network by improving local accessibility, is a positive green initiative which actively promotes local enterprise and provides new opportunities for sustainable growth in employment, education and tourism.

It will further bring together communities here in the West of England in realising our full potential on the national stage.

We hope that the submission is successful and are happy to support this in whatever way we can.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Nash BSC MinstF
Town Clerk

cc. David Martin, Chief Executive, Corsham Town Council

117, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire. SN4 7AU
Telephone: (01793) 850222 Fax: (01793) 840052
E-mail: enquiries@royalwoottonbassett.gov.uk

Swindon & Wiltshire
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Digital Mansion Corsham
Pickwick Road
Corsham
Wiltshire
SN13 9BL

Rob Murphy
Wiltshire Council
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge BA14 8JN

1 March 2021

Dear Rob

Corsham Station

I am writing in support of the bid to seek funding from the "Restoring Your Railways Ideas Fund" for a feasibility study into the potential of establishing a railway station at Corsham. Such a station would provide a sustainable alternative to car travel for access to Bristol, Bath, Swindon and Chippenham. Corsham is also home to a large number of skilled jobs through both the MoD and associated industries.

The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership is committed to the development of rail services within the boundaries of our area, but also adding to our strong connectivity to other parts of the country. In our Rail Investment Strategy, we estimated that a new station at Corsham would in itself add £2.3m a year to our local economy. A Corsham station would deliver above and beyond that if it was part of an enhanced sub-regional rail link from Bristol, passing through Bath, Corsham and Chippenham, on its way to Swindon, Oxford and Cambridge and involving the creation of two further stations at Royal Wootton Bassett and east of Swindon. The economic impact of such a route would generate £27m per year to our local economy.

The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership holds Clean Growth at the heart of its Local Industrial Strategy. Increasing access to rail services and providing a viable alternative to car travel aligns with our objectives for clean and sustainable growth. We have embraced the Government's ten-point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and the evidence of means of connectivity to underpin our future economic development will come from feasibility studies for new rail services and stations. Better use of the rail network by improving local accessibility, is a positive green initiative which actively promotes local enterprise and provides new opportunities for sustainable growth in employment, education and tourism. It will further bring together communities here in the West of England in realising our full potential on the national stage.

Yours sincerely

Paddy Bradley
Chief Executive

cc Cllr Steve Abbott, Corsham Town Council

From: Kathryn Davis
To: Murphy, Robert
Cc: Steve Abbott; Kathryn Davis
Subject: Corsham Railway Station
Date: 28 February 2021 13:42:30

Dear Mr Murphy,

I am writing to you on behalf of Visit Bath and Destination Bristol to support the Corsham Station bid on the 'Restoring Your Railways Ideas Fund'. It fits closely with our own aspirations and plans to develop the local and regional economy while reducing road congestion, pollution and improving the general environment.

We are committed to ensuring the recovery of the visitor economy is a sustainable and better use of the rail network, by improving local accessibility, is a positive green initiative. This actively promotes local enterprise and provides new opportunities for sustainable growth in employment, education, and tourism. It will further bring together communities here in the West of England in realising our full potential on the national and international stage.

With kind regards,

Kathryn

Kathryn Davis
Interim CEO, VisitBath and Director of Tourism, Destination Bristol

VISITWILTSHIRE

Robert Murphy
Principal Transport and Development Manager
Wiltshire Council
County Hall, Bythesea Road
Trowbridge BA14 8JN

4 March 2021

Dear Rob,

Corsham Railway Station

We are happy to support the Corsham Station bid on the 'Restoring Your Railways Ideas Fund'.

It fits closely with priorities identified in Wiltshire's Destination Management & Development Plan and with VisitWiltshire's aspirations and plans to develop the visitor economy while reducing road congestion, pollution and improving the general environment.

Improving transport services and connectivity for visitors and local communities will help encourage visitors to stop and explore; improve transport links in Wiltshire and along the Great West Way; and support the sustainable tourism agenda. It will also help improve access to rural areas and links to the national cycle route. By helping attract additional leisure and business visitors this initiative will make a significant contribution to the growth of the Wiltshire's visitor economy.

The improved connectivity will also provide an important link in spreading the benefits of the Great West Way. Corsham Station would be included on GWR's Great West Way Discoverer Pass, the largest integrated rail and bus pass in the country and as such will be supported by a programme of Great West Way domestic and international marketing activity.

Yours sincerely,

David Andrews
Chief Executive

From:	Mayor
To:	Murphy, Robert
Cc:	David Martin; Steve Abbott
Subject:	Corsham Rail Station - Support of Bid
Date:	03 March 2021 12:08:12
Attachments:	image001.png

Dear Mr Murphy,

On behalf of the West of England Combined Authority, I am happy to support the Corsham Station bid to the 'Restoring Your Railways Ideas' Fund. It fits closely with the Combined Authority's own aspirations and my MetroWest suburban rail plans to develop the regional economy while reducing road congestion, pollution and improving the environment.

Better use of the rail network by improving local accessibility, is a positive green initiative which actively promotes local enterprise and provides new opportunities for sustainable growth in employment, education and tourism. It will further bring together communities in both the Combined Authority area and neighbouring authorities including Wiltshire. It will support the wider region in realising our full potential on the national stage.

I hope to hear that the Corsham Station bid is successful.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Bowles
West of England Mayor

E: Mayor@WestOfEngland-CA.gov.uk
W: westofengland-ca.gov.uk
A: 3 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EW

WEST OF ENGLAND
Combined Authority

Twitter: @WestofEnglandCA **LinkedIn:** West-of-England-Combined-Authority

To find out more about the West of England's regional economic response to Covid-19 and how businesses can access support, please visit our web page.

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