

Residents against Station Closure Press Release

April 7th 2012

Residents continue campaign for free access through the station.

RASC has campaigned for 4 years to keep the station footbridge open because it was built with public money, to be part of an integrated transport, bike and pedestrian network. It does this very successfully.

The case for gating the bridge has not been made and despite repeated requests, no data on ticketless travel has ever been provided for scrutiny.

It may be that increased footfall through the station could justify expenditure on a second pedestrian bridge to accommodate all users. Such a decision should be part of a comprehensive planning process and should recognise the potential for further development of the station, as a transport, retail and commercial hub.

In our view the Secretary of State's offer of £3m for a second bridge north of the station, is to do with the Department for Transport's determination to gate the existing bridge and does not reflect the special circumstances that operate here.

At the meeting in London on the 29th February, the Secretary of State, instructed her officials to carry out an analysis of the alternatives to gating that were put to her by the Sheffield group. We requested a six-month study of these alternatives. Within two weeks, the officials responded that they had looked at and rejected all options which included more inspection staff on trains or "spot" inspections on platforms.

When the offer of a second bridge was mooted there was some discussion of where this might be. The DFT favoured a new bridge north of the station.

To cope with the likely growth of passenger use of the station many people have argued that the most effective option would be to upgrade the goods bridge within the station. The Minister dismissed this option. This is despite the fact that this bridge will almost certainly have to be dismantled and rebuilt at some point soon as it is too low to accommodate the electrification of the line.

We are not convinced that any in depth study of the options was carried out in the time available and we would like to see the evidence they used to come to their decision.

We remain committed to protecting open access through the station.

RASC will be meeting on 30th April at 7pm at Victoria Community Enterprise, Stafford Road to discuss these issues. Everyone is welcome.

For further information contact Graham Wroe (Press Officer) on gswroe@yahoo.co.uk or 07752473190

www.rasc-sheffield.com