

Councillor Neill Watts – Seconding Motion Speech

To give a little more perspective to our group motion for the creation of a working group, I would like to give an update on the current position of the Petition to re-open Cumnock and Mauchline Train Stations as mentioned in the motion.

Currently the Petition is standing at 1,215 signatures from our constituents across Ward 8, Cumnock and New Cumnock and Ward 7, Ballochmyle.

To give a little History, Cumnock Railway Station was originally part of the Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock and Ayr Railway. The station was located just off the A70 at Barrhill Road, near the listed Templand / Lugar Viaduct. The station opened on 20 May 1850.

Mauchline Railway Station also part of the Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock and Ayr Railway, opened on 9 August 1848. It was renamed Mauchline for Catrine in 1887, and then renamed back to Mauchline in 1903.

Both stations closed to passengers on 6 December 1965 following the Beeching Cuts.

As stated in our groups motion, by re-opening these train stations we will reduce Car Travel on the A76 which in turn will reduce accidents, potentially increase Tourism to the area and it will also help to improve the environment.

Provest, I hope that Council will support the creation of the proposed working group, as it is vitally important for our communities to see commitment and support from us to help improve the rail transport infrastructure and volume of trains within the Cumnock & Mauchline areas, this would be extremely beneficial to the residents of the towns.