

11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Dear Dr. Phipps,

I purchased this property in 1967, which is reasonably close to the home of my maternal grandparents in the Rhondda. It is the highest of a group of five farms near summit of the Mynydd Llanllwini, lying on the southern slope stretching down to the Towy valley. The mountain is covered by Bronze Age archaeological relics, and is a special landscape area overlooking the Teifi Valley. Next month a wind turbine company will be appealing against the planning refusal of the Carmarthenshire County Council for them to beassing the skyline of Mynydd Llanllwini. The area is visible from the Carmarthen-Aberystwyth railway line.

When I first came here the track and stations were all intact and I saw a goods train still running, while local residents were trying to prevent the closure planned by Dr. Beeching, who had no Welsh interests. Had the Welsh Assembly been set up by then, it might have been able to save the line, which Christian Wolmer described in his book on the history of railways in the United Kingdom as a 'secondary main line'.

The proposal by the AM Mrs Joyce Watson to reopen the line is absolutely brilliant. It would be the most powerful investment in West Wales, using the legacy of the Victorian civil engineering to improve the speed of travel (from Pembrokeshire via Carmarthen and through the Teifi Valley to Aberystwyth, and onwards via the Cambrian Coast line to Snowdonia). Scotland is reopening the line from Edinburgh to the Borders; even England is now reopening lines closed down by Dr. Beeching. Wales has already been reopening lines in the Valleys. Last year I saw stations being rebuilt there, when Arriva Trains were bought by the German Railway Company (who would support her proposal, perhaps with capital investment).

Please reopen the Carmarthen-Aberystwyth line to link South and North Wales, without having to make a long detour into England to make such a journey. The presence of the Great Railway should not create a problem. The North York Moors Railway uses the Network Rail line to Whitby from its northern terminus. With thanks,  
yours sincerely,

Christie White

Dr Sian Phipps,  
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