



Kenny MacAskill, MSP  
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Dear Kenny,

I write in connection with the forthcoming extension of rail services from Newcraighall to the Borders at Tweedbank and the planned electric train depot at Millerhill to service the new electric trains to run initially between Edinburgh Waverley and Glasgow Queen Street.

I feel this could be a golden opportunity to look at reopening Portobello Station, one of the most popular of Edinburgh's suburban stations prior to closure in the early 1960s and something this community has long wished to see happen.

From what I understand, the current slow-speed and single-track junction from the East Coast Main Line towards Newcraighall and the South Suburban line at Portobello is increasingly being seen as a constraint of regional - and indeed national - significance to rail services.

Although not currently funded, it is likely in the next few years that improvement works to restore a higher speed, double track junction will be undertaken.

The proposed redesign of Portobello junction thereby gives us an opportunity to revisit designs drawn up 10 years ago as part of the Edinburgh Crossrail scheme and to go over various alternative options able to encompass all aspirations.

With the current invitation to tender for the new ScotRail franchise stipulating that bidders must price an option for trains to serve potential new stations at East Linton and Reston, we think that Portobello must stand an equally good chance of finding such Government approval.

Portobello Community Council would thus like to meet with you to discuss how best to take this forward.

Yours sincerely

Portobello Community Council