

Following that email request for support it has been established that the partnership is seeking the maximum £50,000 grant from DfT with match funding of £16,666 required.

From: Community Projects Manager <community@budecoastalteam.org.uk>

Sent: 11 February 2021 16:48

To:

Subject: Restoring Your Railway: Ideas Fund Round 3

Dear Town Clerk

Restoring Your Railway: Ideas Fund Round 3

Connect Bude is a community-led organisation campaigning to reconnect Bude and Holsworthy to the National Rail Network. We work closely with OkeRail – the group which is promoting the rail service between Okehampton and Exeter.

The Department for Transport is currently inviting community groups to propose how they could use funding to reinstate axed local services, and has launched a third round of the *Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund*. The Fund will make grants of 75% of costs, up to £50,000, towards successful proposals to undertake transport and economic studies and create a business case for restoring rail lines.

Connect Bude, together with partners Bude Coastal Community Team and Bude Climate Partnership, is very eager to take advantage of this funding to further explore opportunities to reinstate the rail line from Bude via Holsworthy to the National Rail Network at Okehampton.

Given your Council's proximity to a restored line, we write to ask if it would be prepared to lend its support to our application to the Ideas Fund. We firmly believe that the social, economic and environmental benefits that would accrue from a reinstated rail service would extend to all communities along the line.

Should we be successful in our application to the Ideas Fund, we will need to secure funding of 25% of the cost of the feasibility work to match the DfT grant. We also ask if your Council would be prepared, in principle, to make a contribution towards those costs.

Applications to the DfT must be submitted by 5th March 2021, so we would respectfully request that any expression of support is sent at your Council's soonest convenience.

On behalf of Connect Bude, Bude Coastal Community Team and Bude Climate Partnership.