

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2024

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR R MORRIS TO COUNCILLOR K MERRIE

“As many local people are, I am disappointed that the Labour Government as announced by the Chancellor has scrapped the” Restoring Your Railway Programme” which has effectively brought to a halt the restoration of the Ivanhoe Line after many years of hard work by all stakeholders.

The reopening of the Ivanhoe line would have provided a valuable commuting route especially given that this Council may have to provide for some of the unmet housing need from the Labour council in Leicester.

Can I please ask what the Portfolio holder is doing to address this situation?”

REPOSENSE FROM COUNCILLOR K MERRIE TO COUNCILLOR R MORRIS

“In July, Councillor Richard Blunt said in a press release to the Coalville Times that he was very disappointed to learn of the Chancellor’s decision to cancel the Restoring Your Railway Programme, particularly as North West Leicestershire District Council has been supportive of the huge amount of work done by partners, including the Campaign to Reopen the Ivanhoe Line (CRIL), Network Rail and other local councils, to reinstate this historically significant branch line.

I fully endorse those comments and as this is a major setback for this long-awaited project, I will be writing to the new MP to ask her to lobby Government to review its position. I will also ask for her support for the reopening of Ivanhoe Line as an individual Restoring Your Railway project when the Transport Secretary undertakes her transport infrastructure review in the autumn to identify any projects where the benefits may justify replacement funding being made available.

As we all know, reopening the Ivanhoe line would be hugely beneficial for local residents, making it easier to travel across the district for work or leisure, and increasing investment from tourism in the area.”