



Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee closes CRAG petition

Comment from Lawrence Marshall
Tuesday 10th February 2009

Dear All,

further to my e-mail of 23 January 2009 forwarding to you CRAG's further response to the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee, please now find below the result of the committee's further "consideration" on 27 January 2009 of CRAG's petition calling for the re-introduction of local passenger services on the Edinburgh South Suburban Railway.

It might occur to you, given the brevity of the verbatim transcript, that "consideration" is too generous a word for what transpired! No mention, for instance, of the possibility of tram-trains nor even a station at Portobello as suggested in our further response (available with all the other submissions regarding our petition at <<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/petitions submissions/sub-07/subIndexForPE1080.htm>><http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/petitions submissions/sub-07/subIndexForPE1080.htm>).

Perhaps, as Robert Burns once famously said, "Sic' a parcel of rogues in a nation"!

Lawrence

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Public Petitions Committee Official Report **27 January 2009**

Col 1405

Scottish Parliament

Public Petitions Committee

Tuesday 27 January 2009

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 13:06*]

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Col 1450

Edinburgh South Suburban Railway (PE1080)

The Convener: The next petition is PE1080, by Lawrence Marshall, on behalf of the Capital Rail Action Group. I understand that additional material has been received and circulated to members. The petition is about the introduction of local passenger transport services on the Edinburgh south suburban railway.

Robin Harper: I have to declare an interest: I have been a member of the Capital Rail Action Group for many years.

The City of Edinburgh Council has said clearly that it does not intend to reopen the south sub line, and reopening the line is not a Government priority either, but the issue will not go away. If the committee thinks that we have taken the petition as far as we can, obviously we have no option but to close it. However, I would like to record my sadness about that, and I am speaking not only for myself when I say that the issue will not go away—CRAG will not stop campaigning for the south sub.

The Convener: I understand what Robin Harper says about the campaign, which will probably find other strategies or opportunities to try to influence decisions.

Many members would be keen to support transport projects in their constituencies, but the Government has announced its strategic transport projects review. We have heard what Robin said and we accept that we should close the petition—

Robin Harper: I have not said that we should close the petition.

John Wilson: I recommend that we should close the petition.

The Convener: Okay. John Wilson recommends that we close the petition, and I feel that that would be the broad view of committee members.

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: Robin Harper has put his views on record.

Public Petitions Committee Minutes of Proceedings

PE/S3/09/2/M

2nd Meeting, 2009 (Session 3)

Tuesday 27 January 2009

Present:

Robin Harper

Mr Frank McAveety (Convener)

Jamie McGrigor (Committee Substitute)

Christina McKelvie (Committee Substitute)

Nicol Stephen (Committee Substitute)

John Wilson

Also present: Jackie Baillie and Margaret Curran

Apologies were received from Bashir Ahmad, Bill Butler, Nigel Don, Marlyn Glen, Nanette Milne, John Farquhar Munro (Deputy Convener).

The meeting opened at 1.06 pm.

4. Consideration of current petitions: The Committee considered the following current petitions—

<<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/petitions/docs/PE1080.htm>> **PE1080** Petition by Lawrence Marshall, on behalf of the Capital Rail Action Group, calling for the re-introduction of local passenger services on the Edinburgh South Suburban Railway.

The Committee agreed to close the petition on the grounds that following the findings of the recent study commissioned by the City of Edinburgh Council and SESTrans, the Scottish Government has made it clear that the re-introduction of passenger services on the Edinburgh South Suburban Rail line would not be cost effective, nor in line with its priorities.