



Press Release

8th April 2008

Campaigners' welcome interest from train operator

Members of campaign group ASK - A Station for Kenilworth are celebrating after hearing that train operator **Arriva** has agreed to become a partner in the development of a business case for Kenilworth Station. The company, whose **CrossCounty** trains already run through the town, will be working on the scheme with planners at Warwickshire County Council over the next few months.

"We're thrilled", said group spokesman Graham Hyde. "There's always been widespread public and political support for the station, but getting an operator interested in running a rail service here is the one thing that's been missing. This has come 'out of the blue' for us but it's great to know the planners have continued to work on the project quietly in the background."

The news comes as the group are preparing a new push for the campaign. *"It's great timing", said Mr. Hyde. "We signed up our 1000th supporter at the end of 2006 then had a quiet year waiting for the franchise changes to bed in. After a review at the end of 2007 we felt we wanted to move on from simply calling for a station to drawing attention to the potential rail services that could be available to us. We were always being asked where the trains would go, and obviously we couldn't say because we didn't know. We still don't, but this will take the campaign from a slightly woolly concept to something with a more concrete focus on the potential benefits to the town."*

"We know nothing's definite yet, and there's lots of work to do, but we're looking forward to seeing the business case published, hopefully some time later this year. With the additional backing of an operator it's going to carry a lot of weight with the Department for Transport and the rail industry."

"We think the people of Kenilworth now have every reason to anticipate having a rail service within the next five years or so."

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---NOTES FOR EDITORS---

- ASK is supported by **Action 21**, the group for volunteers who want to promote sustainable development in Warwick District. For further information about Action 21 go to <http://www.action21.co.uk>

---CONTACTS---

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