

OPINION: Tell us your thoughts and join the debates

YOUR VIEWS

Opening the viaduct is the healthy option

IN A RECENT comment about the new Sainsbury's supermarket in Caldewgate it was raised that access would be great for cyclists from Dalston via the Castle Way ramp funded by Sainsbury's, which is now with Carlisle City Council.

It has not yet been confirmed when the ramp will be built. The ramp I believe will also favour a link with the many city parks.

Another long-running saga is trying to get the listed sandstone Victorian Waverley Viaduct reopened with British Railway Residue Board willing to maintain the structure.

The leisure possibilities of walking, fishing and connections to distant cycleways have already been raised as healthy options.

Vandalism seems an issue for those north of the River Eden against the viaduct, which has been open almost since construction for steam trains in Victorian times and then from around 1969 when rail traffic closed the viaduct.

It then became a footpath for many years until deemed unsafe by BRRB and sealed off almost two years ago under a temporary planning acceptance agreed by Carlisle City Council.

A further temporary planning extension had also been raised, despite protests from many, some having raised a 2,000-strong petition at the initial planning closure.

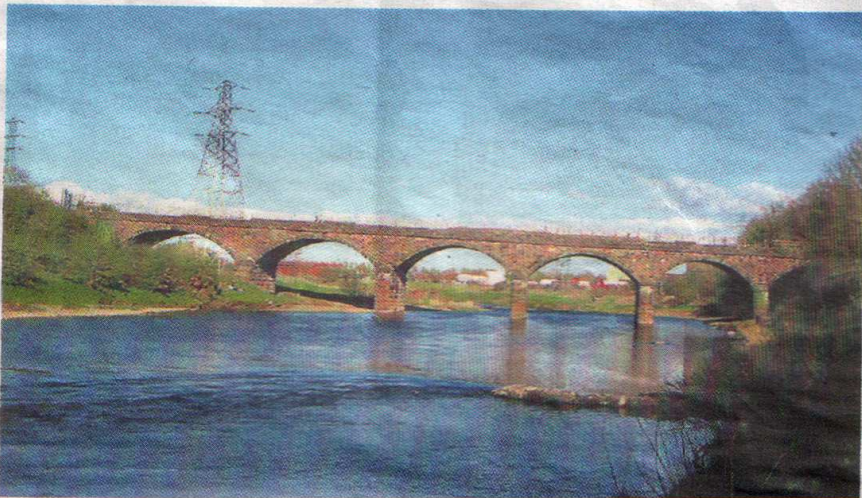
So what has the Caldew bridge ramp got to do with the Waverley Viaduct? Well, both are almost in the same locality, being on riverside walks, near cycleways or running through countryside paths, most safely away from roads.

Hadrian's Wall walk runs to north of the Sainsbury's new store, alongside a Youth Hostel Association facility.

It should be actually possible soon to travel from Dalston (or the frequently visited Lakes) into the town centre.

So what of the Waverley Viaduct? Sainsbury's and the town centre is just a short trip from north of the river from crossing the viaduct bridge over the Eden. It is presently denied access under temporary planning legislation.

There is no access for a leisurely walk or ride to the Lakes via Dalston other than via the new city bypass cycleway footpath linking



Waverley Viaduct: Correspondent Roy Gadsby awaits its reopening

Peter Lane and onto Cummersdale's Carlisle to Dalston purpose-built cycleway.

A quicker route could be the CNDR bypass onto Stainton and crossing the Waverley Viaduct Bridge at Etterby, almost directly into the city along parks.

I myself have walked and enjoyed safely crossing the River Eden and met tourists on more than one occasion along the Hadrian's Wall footpath.

I believe the opening of the Waverley Viaduct is creative in developing healthy options besides those who want to plan journeys into the city from the north, west and east.

ROY L GADSBY
Granville Road
Carlisle

COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES

All should take cuts

REGARDING Copeland's cuts, I agree with Mr Martin of Workington regarding councilors allowances.

You put the county councilors' allowances in, but Copeland councilors are also county councilors. Why don't these councilors take a cut? They shouldn't be cutting money to places like the Beacon centre.

I honestly believe that these councilors – not only Copeland, Allerdale as well – should all be taking cuts. It just seems to be the fat cats that seem to be surviving in this world.

I would like to congratulate you especially about the county councilors, I hope you can get the Copeland and Allerdale one printed as well because it would shock a lot of people in Whitehaven and west Cumbria.

JOHN EDMONDSON
Meadow Road
Mirehouse
Whitehaven

CENTRAL PLAZA HOTEL

Scaffold's purpose?

Regarding the Central Plaza Hotel, Victoria Viaduct, Carlisle, it is more than four years since the scaffolding was put up on this property. Is it serving any useful purpose?

It certainly hampers access to the West Walls parking of Marks & Spencer and other premises.

M PATRICKSON
Grosvenor Court
Carlisle

SCHOOLS SHOWJUMPING

Not big, not clever

I READ with some bemusement Shaun Halfpenny's letter re the inter schools showjumping. I accept it is very fashionable to moan, but it would have been nice to establish the facts before writing his letter.

It reminded me of a comedy show presenter being asked to talk for two minutes on a topic they know nothing about, only his efforts weren't quite as funny.

The children competing had a great time and as he wasn't there I wonder what allows him to pass comment on who was invited or took part.

Ridicule is a bit like sarcasm, and it has a habit of turning round to haunt you.

Truth is stranger than fiction, I'm the child of a trade unionist, brought up on a council estate, childhood holidays spent at congress, a passion for horses and have competed on equal terms with Princess Anne at Eventing.

I have a message for Brother Shaun and that is, he really should keep politics out of sport, and if he cannot say anything nice then don't say anything at all.

In words he might comprehend his letter was not big and it certainly was not clever.

JOHN COLLIER
Blackford

OPERATIC SOCIETY

A fantastic show

I WOULD like to congratulate Workington Amateur Operatic Society on staging yet another fantastic show.

I was mesmerised by the whole production on Sunday night – a sing-a-long version of *The Sound Of Music*.

The audience joined in, not only with the singing but by dressing up as nuns and in lederhosen made from curtains!

A O'DONNELL
Harrington Road
Workington