

10th January 2020

To whom it may concern,

We are writing in support of the bid by the Carlisle Waverley Viaduct Trust to re-open the Waverley viaduct.

In 2019 both the Carlisle city council and the Cumbria County council passed 'Climate Emergency' motions in recognition of both the considerable challenges we face from the climate crisis and of public impatience with a lack of action.

As part of a wide-ranging strategy to cut CO2 emissions, reducing traffic ranks high. Encouraging and enabling people to cycle and walk more, coupled with investment in the necessary infrastructure and public transport is a vital part of strategic planning.

The recently constructed bridge link between Currock and Denton Holme has shown how movement can be transformed, links between communities strengthened and general health increased as people are given the opportunity to walk and cycle instead of using the car. The Waverley viaduct can offer such a link between the north and west of the city and continue the development of this transformation and is especially important as there are no other river crossings between the Western bypass and the Eden bridge both of which carry heavy traffic.

There has never been a more important time to think creatively and inspire our communities to a healthier and more sustainable future. Safe, noise-free travel routes with clean air is not much to ask for.

We offer our full support to the bid to open the viaduct and hope that it will be just one of the many initiatives that will be taken to develop an alternative transport strategy and reduce car use with its attendant dangers.

Yours respectfully

Harry Gordon on behalf of the membership of...

Carlisle Extinction Rebellion