

## A better place to build new rail station for the town

I was delighted to read that Calderdale Council have agreed to support a feasibility study into a new station for Elland.

However, I feel that Lowfields is the wrong location and that by changing the site, they could show some real vision and embrace a fully integrated transport plan.

Lowfields estate provides jobs and opportunities but doesn't, in my opinion, bring much benefit to the immediate area.

A station at Lowfields would serve just Lowfields and nowhere else, it is too far out to make it an easy trip between the town centre and the site. I think a far better site would be the old North Dean Station in West Vale.

This would require some serious investment from Calderdale and the new Combined Authority but the potential benefits are huge. If the North Dean station were to be resurrected, it could include a small bus terminal allowing the establishment of a mini interchange. Most of the buses from Greetland, Stainland and Elland to Halifax pass this point so it wouldn't need additional services.

However, I am sure that enterprising local bus companies would be quick to launch a regular shuttle bus service if there was such a gap in the market.

The land across the road from the old station is, I believe, for sale.

This would make an ideal parking area with more than enough space to park

for the station and allow the operation of a Park and Ride scheme to reduce traffic through Salterhebble and Halifax town centre.

We have been told over the years that there is too much pollution around the Dryclough Lane junction so this scheme could help alleviate that.

It could also help with parking issues at the hospital. There is already a railway bridge over the road so a pedestrian access bridge could link both sides of the development without imposing any additional height restrictions.

The site is also on the National Cycle Network Route 66 and near the start of the Hebble Trail route to Halifax which could encourage people to make journeys without the use of a car and promote cycling in the area, an opportunity not to be missed with the interest surrounding Grand Depart 2014.

Some upgrading work would need to be done to the Calder and Hebble junction to make traffic flows easier.

However, there were plans for this years ago when the pub was purchased and demolished.

The powers that be at Calderdale Council have a real opportunity here to develop an effective and much needed transport system that would benefit Elland and all the surrounding districts and I would urge Calderdale Council to give some careful consideration to the idea.

**Chris Blakey**  
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