

Transport for Britain Project Updates

By Peter Longman



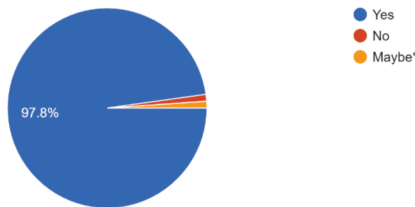
Arboretum Line

Following last month's launch of our campaign to reopen the Lichfield to Burton rail line to passenger traffic we have had a great response to the on-line survey. Our plans to run a pilot charter train service during the first half of 2021 are also gathering momentum – we will provide more information on this together with results and progress on the HS2 Lichfield campaign next month.

Arboretum Line Interim Survey Findings

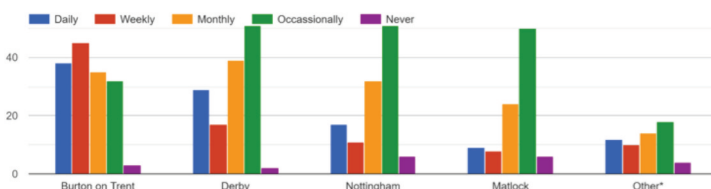
The survey, which can be completed at www.transportforbritain.co.uk/surveys, has so far revealed an overwhelming response with 97.8% in favour of reinstating a regular passenger service from Lichfield to Alrewas serving the National Memorial Arboretum. There is still time to take part if you haven't already done so and also to register your interest in receiving further news updates.

Are you in favour of restoring the passenger train service from Lichfield to Alrewas?



We also asked those completing the survey which other stations they would like to travel to. Not surprisingly Burton-on-Trent followed by Derby and Nottingham were the destinations most favoured by daily commuters. While those travelling once a month or occasionally for leisure would want to travel further afield with Derby, Nottingham and Matlock being the preferred destinations. Other destinations people would like to reach include: Chesterfield, Sheffield, York and many places that may be accessible from Lichfield via connecting services. Matlock also offers connection to Peak Rail.

If the service was extended beyond Alrewas which additional stations would you like to reach and how often would you travel?



In relation to how people would choose to support the opening of a regular passenger service between Lichfield and Alrewas, the majority of respondents would be prepared to support the project by joining a membership scheme with over two thirds also potentially contributing to a crowd funding program or making a financial donation. A quarter of respondents would also be prepared to give their time and expertise to set-up and run the new service.

Would you support reinstatement of passenger services on the Arboretum Line by: (please tick all that apply)



In terms of train type, electric was by far the most popular option, however, installing overhead catenary wires would be costly especially as this often involves rebuilding bridges and other major infrastructure works. The idea of using hydrogen is starting to gain momentum especially with the recent trials of hydrogen powered trains in Warwickshire. The collaboration between Porterbrook Leasing and University of Birmingham has the potential to put hydrogen fuel cell trains on our tracks much sooner and at a vastly reduced cost compared to full electrification of the line. It is also completely carbon neutral. This recently featured on BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/business-54350046>

If there was a choice which type of train would you prefer to travel on? (please rank in order)



Final survey results will be published on the TFB website during December. In the meantime, further details of membership and funding options will be published on www.arboretumline.uk in November. We will also be contacting those keen to be involved over the coming weeks.