

"Beattock Station has been closed since 1972, when the UK Government embarked on its largest closure of UK rail stations which impacted on many of our rural communities across South Scotland. The Beattock Station Action Group have carried out great work over the years in making the case for the station to be reopened. To me, it's a no brainer – the station must be reopened to serve the communities of Beattock and Moffat, to increase accessible green tourism for people to come to our bonnie region and to encourage people to use public transport to help in the fight against the climate emergency.

"The reopening of the Beattock Station has been identified in the Scottish Government's Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2), particularly as the station and much of its required infrastructure already exists, but I am pressing the Scottish Government now to provide a timescale as to when the STPR2 recommendations will be taken forward. As well as the parliamentary motion which I have submitted, I am also raising this case directly with the Transport Minister.

"I will continue to support the Beattock Station Action Group and will keep constituents updated on this work as we move forward and I expect to hear back from the Scottish Government soon."

Cllr Stephen Thompson added:

"I am grateful to Emma for picking up this important case with the Beattock Station Action Group. I have no doubt that the reopening of Beattock Station will be of immense benefit to the local area – increasing tourism, fighting the climate emergency and, most importantly, by putting Moffat and Beattock on the map as key commuter towns to Edinburgh and Glasgow."

The Beattock Station Action Group added:

"We are grateful to Emma both for taking the time to come and meet with us in Beattock and for taking quick action following the meeting to help progress our case for the reopening of the Beattock Station. We have been a constituted group since 2012 and, since then, we have been carrying out work on the ground with local residents, who overwhelmingly support the reopening of the station.

"We look forward to Emma receiving a response from the Scottish Government and to continuing to work with Emma to advance our cause which will bring about huge benefit to Beattock, Moffat and to wider Dumfries and Galloway."

ENDS