

Have your say on Tamar Valley transport

22 December 2017

Residents in the Gunnislake, Calstock and Bere Peninsula areas are being asked to take part in a transport survey to help with a new study looking at the value of the Tamar Valley Line to the community.

All aspects of the line's value are being investigated including the access it provides local people to employment, education and shopping in Plymouth, connectivity with the rest of the country and its role in helping tourists visit the Tamar Valley AONB.

The study is the initiative of Calstock and Gunnislake's Cornwall Councillor Dorothy Kirk and is being carried out by the passenger transport specialists, the TAS Partnership on behalf of the Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership.

Hearing the views of those who rarely, if ever, use the trains will be vital to the study and the survey is available on line at www.tamarvalleysurvey.com. Alternatively, hard copies of the survey will be available at the following places early in the New Year:

- Bere Ferrers – Margaret's Hairdressers
- Bere Alston – John Brown's Stores
- Gunnislake Post office
- Calstock Bear Necessities Mobile Shop (on the quay)

Completed surveys entered by Friday 26 January 2018 will go into a prize draw to win £50 worth of shopping vouchers which you can use from a variety of retail outlets.

On three days in January, on-train surveyors will also be asking passengers about their travel patterns and for their views on the current service and what improvements they would like to see.

Explaining the importance of this research, Cllr Kirk said: "Our little railway, which must be one of the most beautiful to be found anywhere, is of vital importance to our communities, linking us to the rest of the world and providing access to employment, education, shopping and entertainment. I hope that the community will view this survey as a means of highlighting the Tamar Valley Line's importance to the people of the valley and thus help make the case for its improvement and development."

Due for completion in the spring, the study is being funded by Cornwall Council, Cllr Kirk's Localities' funding and also, through the Rail Partnership, the Designated Community Rail Development Fund (which is backed by the Department for Transport and the Association of Community Rail Partnerships)

The Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership is a non-profit partnership between local authorities, Plymouth University and the rail industry which works to promote travel and seek improvements to services and facilities on the rural railways of the two counties.

Leading members include Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Great Western Railway. More information about the Partnership is available at www.dcrp.org.uk.