

19th January 2000

Re-Opening of Beaully Station

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The Highland town of Beaully is to be put back on the rail network - 41 years after its station was closed.

The Shadow Strategic Rail Authority is to provide £84,000 worth of funding towards the overall cost of £200,000 of reopening the station, under its Rail Passenger Partnership (RPP) scheme.

The new station will be served by ScotRail trains on the routes to Inverness from Kyle of Lochalsh and Thurso/Wick. Primary use of the station is expected to be made by commuters and leisure travellers making the 10 mile journey to Inverness, with seven trains each way serving the station from Mondays to Saturdays.

Other funders of the reopening include Railtrack (£67,000), Highland Council (£30,000), Inverness and Nairn Enterprise (£18,000) and Highland Rail Developments (£5,000).

The announcement was made today at a press launch in Beaully attended by the Rt. Hon. Charles Kennedy MP, in whose constituency the station is situated.

Chris Austin, External Relations Director at the Shadow Strategic Rail Authority said:

"I am delighted that we will be able to put Beaully back on Scotland's railway map through this partnership initiative. We are re-opening a station closed during an era notorious for cuts in routes and stations, and encouraging people out of their cars and onto trains in the process.

"The sSRA is committed to the development of the rural rail network and community rail partnerships. This is the 15th RPP scheme approved, and there are more in the pipeline."

Rt. Hon Charles Kennedy MP said,

"The rail network is of vital importance to the people of the Highlands, and I am pleased to see that the residents of Beaully will now be sharing in its benefits. Today's announcement is the fruit of cooperation between the industry, local authorities and stakeholders, and can be regarded as a good example for the further development of

integrated transport in the rural communities in Scotland and indeed, the UK as a whole".

Notes to Editors

1. The new station at Beauly will comprise a short 10 metre platform on the site of the original station, a waiting shelter and a small car park.
2. The Rail Passenger Partnership scheme was announced in the Government's 1998 Integrated Transport White Paper and is an important building block in the sSRA' s strategy of attracting passengers to rail.
3. The bidding process for RPP was announced by the sSRA in May 1999.

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