

## NOT THE LAST TRAIN FROM PILNING

Saturday 10th September



Frances Barr, Chair of Pilning and Severn Beach council, with supporters and the westbound train

Network Rail wishes to remove the footbridge at Pilning Station (it is presently too low to permit the electrification works to be done) - and not replace it! This footbridge links the eastbound and westbound platforms and its removal would mean that in future no train will stop on the westbound platform. This would result in it being very difficult to go and return to Pilning by train. We and others are fighting tooth and nail to prevent this station being closed by stealth.

The temporary Severn Tunnel closure, from 12th September to 21th October for electrification works, will mean no trains between Patchway and Severn Tunnel Junction - and it is thought that Network Rail will remove the footbridge during that period.

To mark this occasion FOSBR members caught the morning train from Pilning to Yatton, spending some time there in the café, walking and cycling. We then took the afternoon train back to Pilning where we found many train fans on the platform ready to record this momentous last stop of the train on the westbound platform (possibly). The westbound platform was beautifully decorated with signs and bunting (thanks Gareth).

As there was no train home again, those of us without cars or bicycles walked to Severn Beach!

There are many photos and videos of the day on the FOSBR Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FOSBR>

Although the loss of the footbridge looks ominous for Pilning station, there is a lot of campaigning going on to have a new footbridge installed and to improve the service to the station. We are determined that the train on Saturday 10th September will **NOT BE THE LAST TRAIN FROM PILNING**.

As local resident and "Save Pilning Station" campaigner Olga Taylor says

"There is a lot of interest locally in the future of the station - local demand for transport, and public transport in particular, is very high. Residents welcome sustainable transport, but have to use fossil fuel for their day-to-day travel needs. People here totally rely on transport for their every need, from work, education and healthcare to leisure and entertainment.

Local residents also recognise that the station has a lot of business potential as it located in close proximity to a number of business parks / warehouses that employ over 10'000 workers (and this number will be growing as the business parks are extending). The station is close to motorway links, thus making it a candidate for Park&Ride services into Bristol or Cardiff / South Wales."

Frances Barr, Chair of Pilning and Severn Beach Council says:

"Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council thank all those who are backing us in trying to get the pedestrian bridge replaced. We especially thank FOSBR and David Wood and I sincerely hope that this will not be the last train to stop on this platform ever."