

CORRESPONDENCE

Like a dutiful local resident I have just completed the Willington Neighbourhood Questionnaire.

I was surprised by the notable absence of two topics:

1: The canal. This only gets a glancing mention as a setting for a wildlife haven (in the old ballast extraction pits between the canal and railway on the way to Stenson. But the canal is arguably the jewel in the modern village. Why is there no mention of it at all, in terms of the character and tourist attraction? I duly made some comments about it myself, but how many people will not think to mention it independently.

(As a boat owner myself (although not berthed in the area) I am disappointed by the lack of facilities to passing boaters. The marina is not the answer - it is lovely, but it's a country club. I think there should be more moorings and facilities on the western side of the village, towards Burton - even another marina, although it wouldn't have to be an extension of the village like Mercia.)

2: The Derby-Crewe railway line. It runs at the back of my garden in Findern Lane, and I watch the hourly services trundle slowly past. I often use it, mostly to go to Uttoxeter and Stoke on Trent. But to reach it, I have to get either a bus into Derby (followed by a 15min walk to Derby Station) or one of the rare trains to stop at Willington Station.

On the occasions I catch it, it is *very* popular with commuters, and I wonder why there isn't a small halt/stop for Willington, similar to the one at Tutbury. Has anyone mentioned this?

Why has no one mentioned the possibility of a 'Willington North' station? Especially with the looming likelihood of Axis 50. Like it or not, if this project were to go ahead it would attract commuter vehicles, which a small station would help to negate. But if it doesn't go ahead, then a station on that land anyway would provide a very convenient and another (environmentally friendly) way for people to come to or leave the village, especially to go northwards.

The Derby-Crewe train makes it *very quick* to get to Manchester, for example, as the attached google map shows. It's already faster to go to and from Manchester via this line, the line is already *hourly and on Sundays* (unlike Willington Station!) and a 'Willington North' station would add another way out of the village without needing a car. (I don't have a car, and don't want one).

Has anyone actually mentioned the possibility of a new railway station? Why wasn't it mentioned in the Willington Plans? Can we start a conversation about it?

Thank you.

