

FOR THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Would it be possible for you to add an agenda item to a future Council Meeting about the Thurston Railway Station Building please?

Your reply on Feb 4th to my previous contact with you about this was:-

The Parish Council has previously investigated the possibility of the station building being used for community uses but as you quite rightly point out there is a heavy financial burden in that the terms of any letting agreement require the tenant to upgrade the building at their own cost, there are limited parking spaces allocated to the building (two we believe) and there will be costs associated in the negotiation of the rights of access with the owners of the land in front of the building.

The Parish Council is aware of the condition of the building and will continue to monitor the situation. It has noted the comments from Alan Neville of Greater Anglia with regards to funding etc. and will keep the matter under review should funding from appropriate sources become available or expressions of interest be submitted to the Parish Council as to its future use.

In the last week there have been a flurry of emails between concerned residents who have far more knowledge than me about the history and condition of the station building. The consensus is that I approach the council with the purpose of setting up a small action/pressure group to try to restore the building.

A brief summary of the situation at present is as follows.

Railtrack owns the building and leases it to Greater Anglia.

Great Anglia wish to let it to a tenant who will refurbish it. It has now been empty for many years.

The centre of **Thurston** is blighted by a shabby Grade 2 Listed building with damp problems.

The Railway Heritage Trust are positive about granting funds and giving guidance if a sustainable future can be planned for the building.

The platform level of the building should be reopened by Greater Anglia to provide facilities for the increasing number of passengers at Thurston.

The tunnel should be re-opened to improve access from the Cracknells side of the station.

The possible allocation of central **CIL monies** for this sort of project needs clarification.

Mixed use of the **lower two floors** by community groups and/or offices and/or retail units needs further investigation.

A **potential tenant** to negotiate the lease from Greater Anglia and to manage the building needs to be found.

I realise this is quite a list but I believe that the building needs restoration now or it risks deteriorating beyond help.

Attachments:- My initial document about Thurston Railway Station
(that was requested by a charitable trust)
Floorplan of Thurston Railway Station
Summary of recent emails about Thurston Railway Station
GA Rental doc