

RAIL FOR HEREFORDSHIRE P O BOX 299 HEREFORD HR1 2YE
Email: Railfh@aol.com www.RailForHerefordshire.org
01432 343262

Paul Keetch
M P for Hereford
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

11 October 2005

Dear Mr Keetch

The Herefordshire Olympic Bid: Rail Infrastructure improvements

We wish you every success in your bid for part of the para Olympics to be staged in Herefordshire. Have rail improvements been considered in your submissions? Sustainable transport to and around the county will form a key element of any application to host the games and rail services will be central to a successful bid. While the north-south Herefordshire line has potential for increasing services and can maintain punctuality, the east-west line Hereford-Birmingham/London currently experiences congestion due to the single track between Hereford and Malvern. This restricts the potential to increase the frequency and punctuality of trains.

The Olympics have the potential to attract funds for structural improvements. Now would be the time to apply to Olympic structural funds to twin-track the Hereford-Ledbury stretch. The double line was only removed in 1982 as a way of saving money on one signalman's wages. So much delay and repression of demand has been caused by this short-sighted act, especially as technology means signals can be automatically operated nowadays. I hope that you take the opportunity to lobby for improvements to the Hereford-Malvern stretch to the appropriate authorities in your work for Herefordshire and the Olympics.

Yours sincerely

GERALD DAWE
CHAIR, RAIL FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

cc Bill Wiggin, MP
Cllr Brian Wilcox, Cabinet Member Transport;