



# FRIENDS OF EXETER SHIP CANAL

Britain's oldest pound lock canal

Exeter, A Heritage Harbour

16 August 2022

Cllr Andrea Davis  
Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport  
Devon County Council  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
EX2 4QD

Dear Cllr Davis,

## **Marsh Barton Railway Station**

The Friends of Exeter Ship Canal was established in 2016, the year of the canal's 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary, to campaign for the canal's future as an active waterway integral to the life and economy of the city and the region.

The Friends fully support the development of the new railway station at Marsh Barton and are keen to see the benefits this will bring come to fruition. We are also keen to see increased enjoyment by people of the canal side towpaths between the new station and the Canal Basin and Quay, which are the second most visited tourist attraction in Exeter.

The Friends are an active participant in the consultations for the proposed housing developments at the Haven Banks retail park (adjacent to Haven Road and the Canal Basin) and the larger Water Lane development, which stretches much of the way to Salmonpool Bridge and hence the new Marsh Barton railway station. Outline plans for these housing developments include over 400 units for the Haven Banks development and over 1,500 units for Water Lane, both developments being expected to become areas of low car ownership and use, coupled with encouragement for walking, cycling, public transport and electric car rental, in accordance with the policies of Exeter City Council.

As these developments come on stream the Friends believe that there will be increased demand for Marsh Barton station and we foresee that this will potentially justify a twice-hourly train service, with all Exmouth to Paignton trains stopping at the station throughout the day. In other words, the seven existing train services between the peaks that currently run fast in each direction south of Exeter ought to call at Marsh Barton. The increased frequency should not only attract more use from the residents of the new developments but encourage more visitors to the Canal Basin and Quay to travel by train to Marsh Barton station. We also hope that, in time, passenger ferries will operate from close to the station along the canal to both the city centre and leisure destinations.

The Friends appreciate that there are timetabling constraints between Exeter St David's and Newton Abbot and that these are not always easy to resolve. May we therefore suggest that early consideration is given to this in order that, as the new housing developments come on stream, the existing timetable has already been modified, if needed, to enable the introduction of a twice-hourly service at Marsh Barton throughout the day?

Please keep us informed of progress in bringing this to fruition.

Yours sincerely,

For the Friends of Exeter Ship Canal

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