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**From:** gby []  
**Sent:** 19 February 2012 21:02  
**To:** Rail 2014  
**Subject:** C000405

## GLENFINNAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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18.2.12

please find our comments re Rail 2014 Public Consultation. They are confined to the West Highland Line, as this is of considerable importance to this village.

1. The West Highland Line has consistently been voted as not only the best rail journey in Britain, but in the world, and is, regardless of that, a prime tourist destination. As such there can be no question of cutting subsidies to it.
2. Given the duration of the journey from Mallaig to Glasgow, there can be no question of standing being acceptable, any more than the present often very overcrowded conditions are. Indeed, to maximise the attraction of the line for tourists, and, not incidentally, general local users, thought must be given to improving and increasing the carriage stock so that a four hour journey can be made in rather more comfort than at present – leg room is on the whole restricted, and on a busy day (ie all the holiday season) toilet provision is inadequate. Also, proper contained toilets need to be installed to minimise pollution along the line.
3. We do not believe the suggestion to ban alcohol on the line has any merit.  
The few incidents we are aware of have been due to drunks boarding, not drinking on board, and being able to buy a drink on such a long journey can only add to its attraction.
4. We would like to see the summer Sunday service run throughout the year, and also strongly believe there  
is need for an additional morning and evening commuter train between Mallaig and Fort William, as the present timetable, while, we accept, necessary to allow a reasonably early arrival in Glasgow, does nothing to entice workers to stop using their cars.
5. We believe that lighting at all stations needs to be controlled by the arrival of trains. At present if the last train is late passengers are left without light, which in the case particularly of Glenfinnan can be dangerous.
6. Better marketing of the line might be considered; the writer of this letter has only just discovered what ‘Gaelic Rings’ are, and it appears that promotional material for this is difficult to come by. However, it also seems to us that more effort – we hope in conjunction with better stock – should be put into marketing the line as a service rather than just a tourist ride.

yours sincerely

Grahaeme Young

Secretary Glenfinnan Community Council

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