

Katherine Palmer

I am writing to complain about the proposed changes to be made on the train line between Glasgow Queen St and Anniesland, via Maryhill. Your 'Rail 2014 – Public Consultation' threatens three stations on this line, Kelvindale, Maryhill and Gilshochill. As a resident of Maryhill Park for almost 21 years I regularly use the train station at Maryhill and object on several grounds to your closure of this service.

· Firstly, not only is the train service more reliable and cost efficient than the busses in this district, but they are also the safer, friendlier option. As a young student of 22 who works in a store in the city centre, I often have to work until 11 o'clock many evenings, and on these occasions I have always felt reassured by the option of the train. Not only can it be disconcerting for a girl of my age to have to stand on Sauchiehall St (as the busses to Maryhill do not leave from Buchanan Bus Station, other than the 119, which after a certain time only runs hourly), but furthermore, the bus journey throughout Maryhill by myself at that time of night can also be quite distressing. In the past I have been confronted and troubled by drunken, aggressive men and women, and I have seen many fights and acts of violence on these bus routes not just at night, but also during the day. The train link between Queen Street and Maryhill is a safer mode of transport as it not only means that myself, and other young people alike can safely wait in the well lit station for the train, but are also reassured by the presence of the train conductor throughout the journey home.

· Secondly, the alternative of getting off the train at Summerston and walking to Maryhill Park through this area at quarter to midnight is not the safest option either. Not only is it not well lit, but there is a large youth community in this area which can be very threatening, particularly for the young and old. In addition, I do not want to exaggerate and I realise that this is not a common occurrence, however, the murder of Andrew Curran in this Park in April 2010 should have alerted Ministers to the threat of violence in this area.

· Finally, I cannot understand the sense in an age of recession for Transport Scotland to go to the bother and cost of creating a brand new station at Kelvindale, much used by the residents from this district and school children from Clevedon Secondary School and Kelvindale Academy, just to shut it down within 7 years!! This act in itself is a waste of money and the Transport Executives who ordered its construction should be questioned as to their ability to make cost effective decisions.

If the SNP government claims to want a passenger-centric rail service then I would greatly appreciate it if they could take into consideration my concerns as a passenger and representative for other young people from my community who wish to continue using this service for the safety and reliability it supplies.