

From : JUDITH HOWARD <howardjudith@btinternet.com>
Sent: Mon 5 July 2010, 21h 53min 12s
Subject: CJ station redevelopment

Dear Cyril,

Re. Clapham Junction Station, I read the blurb that came with the latest Brightside, and then rang the guy (Barry...something - sorry, haven't got my notes with me here) at the Planning office and had a useful chat. I was pleased to hear that the Brighton building is protected and the top entrance in St. John's Hill will be re-opened, possibly by the end of the year, which is good news. The lifts from the overbridge are also going ahead, which is good for the disabled and those with heavy luggage.

In view of the financial cuts, we need to prioritise expenditure. Since the one big, main problem for commuters is the congestion in the tunnel, this can be so easily (and relatively cheaply) relieved by using BOTH entrances, as it always used to be (having used the station regularly since 1957, I've a pretty good idea of how it functions best!) Neither entrance on its own is really capable of handling the volume of traffic - we definitely need to revert to the original plan and use BOTH.

The Grant Road "back entrance" could also do with improvement in due course, allowing people to access both the tunnel and the footbridge from that end of the station as well.

Other questions can then be dealt with separately, as and when funds permit. But there is no need, as I see it, to redevelop the lower entrance in St. John's Hill at all - certainly not in the current economic climate. The little shops are just what passengers need, i.e. the newspaper stall and WH Smiths, the coffee shops, the little supermarkets, etc. We don't want developments with great big shops which will attract more (non-travelling) people into this crowded station area - it MUST continue to focus on the needs of the travelling public. There is no point in pulling down perfectly good 1970s buildings just to suit some greedy developer! (A big development would also detract from other shops in the town centre - St. John's Road and Northcote Road etc.) Developers are usually in it for their own good, not for ours! - so we must keep focussed on what really needs to be done.

I understand this will come up at the Planning meeting in September, with reports published online a week or so earlier, so keep an eye on the Planning website from late August onwards.

Best wishes,

Judith Howard