

*The Thinking Woman's Railway
Centre of the Campaign for Real Railways
Home of the Camping Vans, TOAD & TADPOLE*

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21st August, 2015

Dartmoor National Park Authority,
Parke,
Bovey Tracey,
Newton Abbot
TQ13 9JQ

RAILWAY RECONSTRUCTION

For the attention of Louise Barattini, Planning Case Officer

Dear Ms. Barattini,

**An Objection to the Application for
Outline Planning Permission by Edwin Tucker & Sons Ltd.
for Change of Use to Residential Development
at Brewery Meadow, Ashburton**

**Being more particularly an objection
to the proposal to build five homes on
the course of the Ashburton Branch Railway**

Although the masterplan for the area, against which this application must be considered, was adopted by the authority on 3rd July, it is very seriously flawed and in all likelihood would not withstand a legal challenge, if one were to be mounted by railway interests.

The architects of the "Chuley Road Masterplan" made two fundamental mistakes:-

- ☞ They failed to identify the central architectural and historical feature and chose to call the area by a name that would not be generally recognizable; and
- ☞ They failed to consult the neighbouring railway authority or anybody with specialist knowledge and expertise.

It is not suggested that failing to identify Ashburton Station as the dominant feature was deliberate obfuscation, only that it was extremely unhelpful in attracting the attention of the wider community which affectionately regards the place as a classic Great Western branch line terminus.

The authority completely failed to research the subject of the railway, even within its own files and reference library. Moreover, when the railway interests were finally alerted to what was proposed and made their submission, the National Park again failed

to consult any railway authority and failed adequately to gauge local opinion, the economic potential of a rail link and its value as future public transport.

If the masterplan is nullified as a result of a judicial review and provision is made for railway reconstruction in a revised version, the greater part of the present application, that is the area west of the river, would be unaffected.

So it follows that the objection is only to the outline proposal for five homes on the course of the former branch railway.

In view of the vulnerability of the masterplan, surely it would be better if Edwin Tucker & Sons Ltd. withdrew, if only for now, this least element of their application.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Burges