

SAVE QUEENSBURY TUNNEL

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What about the benefits?



Positive vision, inspiring future

Experience from across the country demonstrates that transforming old railways into greenways helps local communities to thrive, as well as bringing physical and mental health benefits. It also secures a viable future for heritage assets that might otherwise be lost. Around 60 disused tunnels are already fulfilling such roles in the UK, with Bath's mile-long Combe Down Tunnel hosting running races which contribute £250K to the local economy every year.

Promoting better health

The lack of safe, high-quality routes is one of the greatest barriers to more people undertaking shorter journeys on foot or bike. Whilst new cycle lanes are being opened on or adjacent to roads, many potential users are put off using them because of the closeness to traffic and pollution, and difficulties at junctions. Greenways overcome these concerns, offering full separation from traffic and usually passing through more attractive landscapes.



Nationally significant

Queensbury would be the most ambitious reuse of an old railway tunnel because it would be the longest in the UK for walking and cycling. The proposition is unique as it connects two large population centres separated by a big hill, between which more than 14,000 people commute daily. It would offer a safe, flat alternative for those who currently contend with the congested road between Bradford and Halifax. A recent feasibility study undertaken by Sustrans (now the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust) described the proposed active travel network with Queensbury Tunnel as its centrepiece as "iconic and nationally significant".

Boosting the economy

The study found that £3 in social economic and tourism benefits would be accrued for every £1 spent on the network, or £4 if Queensbury Tunnel was repaired proportionately. That's high value for money and far better than most road schemes to which the Government is committed.

£3
benefits

£1
costs

HIGH
value for
money

Imagine!

We need to embrace the opportunities presented by Queensbury Tunnel. Situated on the edge of Brontë country, it would be a major draw for visitors to our area, offering adventure for families and a venue for sporting or cultural events. It's an asset Bradford can and should be proud of for generations to come.

Making a difference

The proposed active travel network has the potential to make a transformative difference to communities that have been persistently overlooked. Life won't get better if we just cross our fingers and hope: we need to rediscover our ambition and invest positively. Please support our efforts to do just that.