



GAVO¹ Award to BT4C 6th June 2012. A Brief Acknowledgement.

Better Trains for Chepstow Campaign - Team Award.

We are delighted to receive this award for the work that BT4C has undertaken towards our aim of bringing sense and order to our train services at Chepstow. Since our teams work has received acclaim it is time for me to place on record the extensive help and encouragement we have been given along the way.

This campaign had its origins in **July and August 2004** when as an individual I met **Huw Edwards MP** and **Assembly Member David Davies**. In December 2004 **The Free Press** publicised the campaign to stop Cross Country trains at Chepstow with the result that I was contacted by **Alan Vickers** who shared my views.

The **Better Trains for Chepstow (BT4C) team** (and website) were **set up in January 2007** followed by a **Free Press** Release on 23rd January 2007. This was shortly after First Great Western was awarded their franchise in **October/November 2006** and the **Severn Tunnel Action Group (STAG)** was formed to stop Portsmouth trains at STJ.

We received support and encouragement from many individuals and a variety of organisations. Too many to recall and mention here. Top of the list are the people who attended BT4C meetings, assisted in our surveys, helped in setting up the website, carried out investigations, and attended a multitude of meetings around the UK. These dedicated and hardworking people include:- **Phil Inskip, Alan Vickers, Richard Lemon, Paul Tidmarsh, David Flint and Colin James**. Thanks too to **Jacqui Sullivan, Janet Rawlings and Jane Kennedy** each of whom have supported and helped promote our campaign in various ways. Particular thanks are due to **my wife Pat** for putting up with many inconveniences and especially proof reading and correcting many of my boring and repetitive documents.

Important too are the **passengers** who provided help with our surveys and wrote to us with their support and describing their experiences. They covered a multitude of occupations including lawyers, solicitors, musicians and shop workers.

Organisations that co-operated with us, encouraged us and given their support include:- **Chepstow and District Rotary Club, Chepstow Town Council, Chepstow Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Chepstow Marketing, Chepstow Friends of the Earth, Transition Chepstow, Chepstow Free Press and South Wales Argus**. In particular we thank the individuals in these organisations who wrote the letters, minutes and articles to promote our objectives

We are pleased to say that we have enjoyed cross-party support throughout. We are fortunate to have enjoyed the full and continuous support of **David Davies our MP** from the time he was our Assembly Member. **Jessica Morden MP** facilitated a useful meeting Transport Minister Tom Harris and **Mike German AM (now Lord German)** met us gave us some extremely good advice at the outset of our campaign for stopping the Cross Country trains.

We are also pleased with support and encouragement from several **County Councillors** locally and in the various committees that we have been associated.

County Councillor **David Dovey** and others have recently established a Joint Rail Working Party and we hope this will lead to rail transport throughout South East Monmouthshire being taken more seriously in the future.

Much more must be done to achieve a fully integrated and regular train service to this part of Wales.

Thanks to you all, Jim JENKINS, Chairman BT4C

¹ GAVO –Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations.