

# Firms back new rail link

JOANNA BREMNER

St Andrews salon owners, taxi drivers and café staff have backed the town's latest push for a train station.

Businesses have revealed their support for the ongoing bid to reinstate the station.

Salon owner Aileen Wallace-Edgar believes a rail link is "needed" in the town.

"I think a rail service to St Andrews would be amazing," she said.

"It's something we would love to have here because it would bring so many more people into the town centre."

Aileen is the owner of the Vintage Beauty Box on South Street.

She was raised in Fife and has worked in St Andrews for seven years.

"A lot of my clients only come in for their treatments, not for shopping. They would rather go to Dundee where there's more ample parking.

"If we had a rail link, it would make it so much easier for them. They wouldn't have to worry about finding a parking space.

"And", she joked, "my clients wouldn't run late as often."

Aileen, 40, believes the potential disruption during the construction of the railway line would be worth it for "the bigger picture".



SUPPORT: Georgia Butler with Aileen Wallace-Edgar, who backs a rail line for St Andrews. Picture by Mhairi Edwards.

"That might be a bit of a nightmare," she said, "but we'll just have to deal with that for the positives in the long run."

Staff at the Gorgeous Café, just off Market Street, see a railway line as a way to encourage more customers to the town.

Cailan Duane has been working at the café for a year. He said: "Tourists love St Andrews and I think it would be good to give them a better line to it."

Emma Bell works at

Short Stay St Andrews, which offers rentals for visitors to the town.

"It would be very, very busy with a train station," said Emma, 23.

"But I think it would be good for the town. You can never be too busy."

One man who works for a taxi company in St Andrews but did not want to give his name also sees the benefit of a rail link.

He said: "It's a good idea to have a railway link. That way you bring in more

people. But it's also a cost. It will take time and there could be a lot of disruption."

Many turn to taxis to get to St Andrews after they get off the train at Leuchars.

However, he does not think a railway link between the two would be a bad thing for his trade.

He said: "My personal belief is that a link like that would lead to more business.

"If there are more people

coming in, there will be more business."

St Andrews University, one of the main employers in the town, also backs the potential rail link – albeit tentatively.

A spokesperson said: "Our consistent position has been that we support a rail link to St Andrews in principle."

StARLink's railway bid has been delayed by Transport Scotland taking too long to pay its bills, say campaigners.