

Withnell Parish Council

c/o Piccadilly Farm
Belmont Road
Withnell
Chorley
Lancs
PR6 8DZ

Monday, August 10, 2026

Department for Transport

Structures Fund Technical Advisory Body

Email: StructuresFundTAB@dft.gov.uk

RE: Letter of Support for Lancashire County Council's Structures Fund Bid

Dear Sir / Madam,

On behalf of Withnell Parish Council I am writing to express our strong and unreserved support for the grant application being submitted by Lancashire County Council to the Structures Fund for the Withnell Station Bridge project.

As the their meeting on 2nd July 2026 the Parish Council debated the long term benefits of having the bridge replaced as per the bid or having a short term solution which would need further work in the next few years and once again blight the life of local residents and those that commute through the area. We rely heavily on the integrity and capacity of this bridge to facilitate public transport which enables residents in three local villages to access education, employment and public services.

We are acutely aware of the urgent need for investment as the current condition of the structure requires substantial re-enforcement work to ensure it remains safe, operational, and capable of handling local traffic demands. We understand that without this funding, the authority risks only being able to complete a temporary solution which will require significant further investment in a few years which would heavily disrupt the lives of residents of the local villages, those that commute to use the near by M65 motorway as well as the significant amount of freight which uses the route as a gateway to Greater Manchester.

Lancashire County Council has a proven track record of delivering critical infrastructure projects efficiently and with minimal disruption to the public. We have every confidence that this capital investment will be managed effectively,

providing long-term benefits to the region and safeguarding our local transport network.

We fully endorse this proposal and urge the Department for Transport to support this vital funding bid. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information regarding our support for this scheme.

Yours faithfully,

Bernard Golding

Clerk to Withnell Parish Council

Withnellparishcouncil@outlook.com