

Retail chiefs back capital train links

RETAIL chiefs have welcomed news of the £300m rail link set to link Helensburgh with another legendary Burgh.

Conpton MacGill, chair of Helensburgh Retailers' Association, backed the move as a potential economic boost.

Mr MacGill said: "The tourism opportunities for bringing Edinburgh people through to Helensburgh is very positive. When you look at the day trippers whom we can attract during the summer from Glasgow, we have a good record. This has

By Tracy-Ann Carmichael

got to be a good thing. There's the opportunity for tourists or day trippers to come down here, as the end of the line rather than simply visit Glasgow.

"Some people will say that it also means people leaving Helensburgh for Edinburgh. If they do that there will also be people coming in and I think there's a limit to the type of damage it could do to retailing in Helensburgh. I would think

it's better to encourage easy transport links and this would be a positive move also in terms of improving the transport infrastructure."

"It's a chance to explore the business opportunities and even for retailers to see if some of their marketing budgets could be spent in Edinburgh, to help capitalise on the opportunity."

Derek Anderson, Chief Executive of The Helensburgh Partnership, charged with regenerating the town, was also optimistic.

He said: "I do think it will be a good

thing, apart from anything else it should draw people from Edinburgh looking for a day out in the west. I've always perceived there to be quite close connections between the two, in some ways Helensburgh reflects in a similar way what happens in Edinburgh. There's the same high-quality environment, etc, by getting people over from Edinburgh has got to be a good thing."

"The effect in terms of people coming in will outweigh the levels of people going away for the day. Exploring the link with Edinburgh would be a good thing."