



The Tewsleigh Valley Railway Extension is about to connect the small town of Tewsleigh to the city of Gladchester. In this activity you will find out how being connected will impact different groups of people in Tewsleigh and the local economy.

Sara, Community Engagement Officer

Challenge 1: Case Study of Tewsleigh Valley

Read the following articles and statements from Tewsleigh residents and then answer the questions below.

Sonia, Student, 15

The schools in Tewsleigh are really great, but there is only one sixth form with few courses. Now that there will be a new railway myself and other young people have access to a range of colleges with vocational courses and apprenticeship opportunities. They are even offering railway engineering apprenticeships on the Tewsleigh Valley Extension.

Emmanuel, Retired, 72

Being elderly and in a small town can be quite isolating. I am a little too old to drive so I am reliant on being driven by other people, or buses. The new train line will mean I can easily visit my 80-year-old sister in Gladchester and visit Gladchester Art Gallery. There is very little culture in Tewsleigh unfortunately.

Josef, Businessman, 38

I already have some businesses in Tewsleigh, but due to the new station being built I will also be opening a café. I hope to capitalise on the morning rush, selling fresh sandwiches and coffee to the commuters. I will need to hire at least two people to run the café, but that shouldn't be a problem as there are lots of people needing jobs here.

Tara, Hotel owner, 36

Tewsleigh is a popular destination for walkers and nature enthusiasts visiting Tewsleigh Valley, and once the railway is built more guests will want to visit and stay at my hotel. Construction workers and engineers will also need somewhere to stay when the railway is being built. Railways are a bit ugly. I hope that it doesn't spoil views of the valley.

Graham, Commuter, 42

I live in Tewsleigh but work in an office in Gladchester. The new railway will cut my commute by half an hour and I can relax on the train, drink my morning coffee and maybe even get some work done rather than drive through traffic and congestion for an hour. I will also get home earlier and be able to spend more time with my children and husband. I'm worried that the extra road congestion from building could be a problem, but it should decrease congestion once the railway is finished.

Ruha, Mayor, 52

The Tewsleigh Valley extension is going to transform our town in the short term and long term. In the short term, the activity of building the railway and station will bring an increased footfall to our town, bringing more customers to our restaurants, hairdressers, hotel and other services.

In the long-term, the new railway will provide access to jobs and education outside of Tewsleigh, and hopefully rejuvenate our high street and services as more people choose to live and do business here. It will also mean less car travel between our towns, which will reduce carbon emissions.

MODULE 2 WORKSHEET - CONNECTED ECONOMY

Victor, Newsagent owner, 63

The station will mean that more people will visit the town centre, which is good for my business. We hope that with the new connection more people will want to live in Tewsleigh and use the high street again.

Morwenna, Bus Mechanic, 28

My grandad has been campaigning for a new railway since the old one closed in the nineteen-sixties, but I'm a little less enthusiastic. We need a railway here but what will happen to all of the wildlife that will be built on?

Rocky, Unemployed, 19

There isn't much to do in Tewsleigh, and like many ex-mining towns, there are few jobs here. The railway should bring more work to Tewsleigh and I'll also be able to access jobs and training in Gladchester.

Akiel, Nature Reserve Warden, 39

I'm a trustee and warden at the Upper Tewsleigh Nature Reserve and I'm excited that the railway might bring us more visitors. I am however worried about there being extra air pollution in the valley due to the construction traffic. I will be discussing this at the next community meeting.

Newspaper Article,
Gladchester Gazette,
July 17 1987

Tewsleigh Valley Colliery Closure Confirmed

...It has been confirmed today that Tewsleigh Valley Colliery will be closed permanently in spring 1988, with a loss of over a thousand jobs. The coal mine was opened in 1857 by the Gladchester Coal Company and was in its heyday one of the highest producing mines in the district.

The Mayor of Tewsleigh, Gordon Stoker who is himself, like many in the town, a third-generation miner, made a public address on the steps of Tewsleigh Town Hall: "The closure of Tewsleigh Valley Colliery is a tragedy for the town. First the railway and now this; it is a dark day for Tewsleigh."

News Article,
Gladchester Online Review,
September 4 2020

All aboard for Tewsleigh

...Approval has finally been granted for the long-awaited Tewsleigh Valley Railway Extension. The plucky little town in the Tewsleigh Valley will soon have its first train service for forty-five years, creating a much-needed connection to Gladchester.

This is great news for the residents of Tewsleigh which in recent years has had a reputation for social problems and unemployment.

Local counsellor Portia Gohil-Stoker is optimistic. "Lots of local people are planning to start new businesses now that Tewsleigh is becoming more connected. This is great for the town as it will provide much-needed investment and jobs. I'm also personally looking forward to the opening of our new coffee shop!"

News Article,
Gladchester Inquirer,
November 6 2020

Local People Get Their Say About New Railway

... Many local people turned out for a community engagement event at the Stoker Centre, Tewsleigh, to talk about their concerns and to find out more about plans for the new Tewsleigh Valley Extension. On display were plans for the new green corridor, a network of wildlife habitats along the route. It is hoped that this will help to integrate the railway into the surrounding scenery and provide habitats for wildlife affected by the build.

A commitment was also announced that electric vehicles would be used where possible during the construction of the railway. This comes after concerns about increased pollution during construction.

MODULE 2 WORKSHEET - CONNECTED ECONOMY

a) Explain three ways that the Tewsleigh Valley Extension will increase job opportunities for the people of Tewsleigh.

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b) How might the Tewsleigh Valley Extension benefit young people?

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c) How might the Tewsleigh Valley Extension benefit older people?

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d) How might Tewsleigh benefit during the construction of the railway line?

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e) What other impacts might the Tewsleigh Valley extension have on Tewsleigh?

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f) How might Gladchester benefit economically from the Tewsleigh Valley Extension?

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g) Some residents were unsure about the new railway. How is the rail company addressing their concerns?

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Challenge 2: Community Presentation

You must create a five-minute presentation explaining to the local people of Tewsleigh how they stand to benefit from the new Tewsleigh Valley Extension.

You should include:

- The economic benefits for different groups within the community;
- The wider benefits for the economy and development of the town;
- How the rail company plans to address the concerns of local people.