

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS' GROUP

Minutes of meeting held 4th April 2009 at The Guildhall, Northampton

Present , Michael Barlow, Colin Bricher, David Cheney, Shaun Hope, Mitzi Latham (L-M), John Ellerby (NCC), Malcolm Grice (VT), Debbie Johnston (L-M), Sally Keeble, James Kennedy (VT) , Paul Minton, Simon Mitchell, Patrick Rawlinson, Roy Sears, Paul Smith, Daniel Smith, Elisabeth Townsend

Apologies: Linda Addy, Sandi Coles, Yousseff Cockbaine (LM), Gyde Horrocks, Alan Jones, Peter Smith, Geoff Steel .David Trill, Tom Welsh

Minutes of Last Meeting

Accepted.

London Midland Report

Mitzi expressed L-Ms regrets over the strike and provided some background explanation. L-M hope to run around 80% of services through the strike period using a special timetable.

Overall punctuality figures were reported as ppm (trains within 5 mins) of 76.4% with 89.9% for departures both from Northampton and London on weekdays.

The top 10 causes of delay were given as: Track fault at MK; track circuit failure Wembley; Signal failure Bletchley; track circuit failure Bletchley; freight train problem Bletchley; VT problem Bletchley; fright train failure MK; track fault Wembley; Conductor shortage. It was noted that with the top 9 reasons (ie all but the conductor shortage) were not under L-Ms control.

In general 65% of all delays are due to NR rather than TOCs.

Geoff Hoon (Secretary of State for Transport) Visit

A good case was put forward to Geoff Hoon by the transport authority (NCC) with an emphasis on services, Northampton as part of the Milton Keynes South Midlands (MKSM) growth agenda, the new station and the car park expansion. Geoff Hoon was positive about getting connections to other destinations.

The feeling was that the case for Northampton was well received and this had been a good visit. The question is how to follow-up. Suggestions are:

WNDC to lobby for the new station, improved services and the new fast train fleet.

Regarding Northampton at the centre of rail and the E-W and other links - John Ellerby will progress via the E-W consortium. There was a feeling we have a good case that is not well promulgated.

A suggestion was to ask NCC's consultants to attend a NRUG meeting.

We agreed to ask the EW consortium plus political representation from NCC to the July meeting.

The "North-South" route super RUG meeting with MK should be in early May. Paul Minton to ask James Kennedy for a room at Euston. A Tuesday was the proposed day.

Website

Add a "join the group" button.

Launch at Easter?

Add a news item for Geoff Hoon's visit (anyone got something please? - Sec)

Enquiries - redirect to Elisabeth.

Other business

Regarding the comments on the lack of comfort of the 3*2 seating on the new units - the comment was acknowledged but the difficulty is the compromise between space and capacity. 2*2 is more comfortable but a lot less seats on evening departures that are always at standing room.

A request was made for small tables between the facing seats.

The question of above RPI price increases was raised but there was confusion of RPI + 1% + 5% vs. RPI + 1% which is 5% and the topic was left for next meeting.

There will be no meeting in May, the next one will be June 5th

Next Meetings: 5th June 2009, 4th July 2009

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Secretary: Paul Minton, e-mail pamin100@aol.com

Liaison Officer: Elisabeth Townsend, e-mail elisabeth-townsend@lineone.net

Agenda for meeting on
Saturday 5th June 2009

at

THE GUILDHALL
NORTHAMPTON

at 10.00 AM

1. 10.00 - Attendance and apologies
2. 10.02 - Minutes of 4th April meeting and matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda
3. 10.05 - London Midland Report
4. 10.20 - Virgin Report
5. 10.30 - Timetable & Service issues and campaigns
 - service usage figures etc
 - cancellation statistics etc
 - MKRUG meeting and way ahead
 - Transport Authority, RUGs, MKRUG, EW consortium meeting
6. 11.30 Website
- 7.11.45 - AOB (Please notify the Chair before the meeting of any items of AOB to be discussed.)
- 7.11.45 - Meeting closes

Date of next meeting: 4th July 2009