

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS' GROUP

Minutes of meeting held 6th December 2008 at The Guildhall, Northampton

Present Linda Addy, John Bannister, Michael Barlow, Colin Bricher Julie Chambers, David Cheyney, John Ellerby (NCC), Alan Jones, Sally Keeble, Mitzi Latham (L-M), Simon Mitchell, Paul Minton, Patrick Rawlinson, Roy Sears, Peter Smith, Paul Smith, Geoff Steel, Elisabeth Townsend, David Trill

Apologies: Sandi Coles, Gyde Horrocks, Shaun Hope, Tom Welsh, Diana Wright

Minutes of 1st November Meeting were agreed with exception that Linda Addy, Simon Mitchell and Peter Smith had sent apologies.

MKRUG

Phillip Lawton of MKRUG kindly attended the meeting and outlined the background to MKRUG's position. He felt there was some opportunity missed in the franchise for non stop Euston to MK with the subsequent time advantage for Northampton. LM are guaranteed 2 slots/hr on the fast lines. LM are working on the possibility of 2 morning peak trains non stop to Euston.

Phillip felt there was now some degree of willingness to get better peak services and Stuart Baker had indicated some mindedness to change the timetable.

A suggestion was made for the 2 RUGs, WNDS and MKDC to meet.

MKRUG have representation on MK Transport authority.

MKRUG found smaller numbers of delegates (max 3) were more successful in meetings with Stuart Baker.

MKRUG have a website and place the minutes on it.

MK first then Northampton has some possibility but would adversely affect Leighton Buzzard.

LM Report

LM will in future send out the performance figures from their communications group, therefore Mitzi did not have any numbers to report. However problems due to 50 mph running, o/h line theft, freight train breakdown and track circuit defects had all occurred in the past month.

Better news - new trains come available from 15th Dec - increasing seating capacity.

The new car park is a DfT obligation to be completed by Dec 2010, LM want earlier.

New station is currently shown 2012 but has funding issues.

Concern over road layout expressed again.

07.12 Issues

The survey regarding passenger use after the death of the 07.12 shows: 37% will go for 6.42, 29% for 07.03, 17% for the 07.13 and 16% for "other". In the absence of good rail 35% of respondents indicated they would be prepared to move from Northampton and 40% would drive to another station. 79% thought trains important.

A distinct preference for early arrival into London was evident.

The gap between 06.42 and 07.03 is a concern, especially regarding what happens when Virgin have a problem. (This turned out to be a premonition not concern -Sec)

LM will monitor traffic flow.

Other

WCML rail utilisation strategy - NR are setting out their ideas - we need to get included:
N'ton Rugby upgrade, Northbound/Scotland.

Next Meetings: 7th February 2009, 7th March 2009, 4th April 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 7th February 2009
at
THE GUILDHALL
NORTHAMPTON
at 10.00 AM

1. 10.00 - Attendance and apologies
2. 10.02 - Minutes of 6th December meeting and matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda
3. 10.05 - London Midland Report
4. 10.20 - Virgin Report
5. 10.30 - Meetings with Mike Haigh and SoS for Transport (Sally)
6. 10.45 - Timetable & Service issues and campaigns
 - what happened?
 - what next
 - what to say about the dreadful start to the year
 - Birmingham trains
7. 11.30 - London Meeting (John Ellerby)
8. 11.45 - Traffic scheme
9. 11.55 - AOB.
 - (Please notify the Chair before the meeting of any items of AOB to be discussed.)
8. 12.00 - Meeting closes

Date of next meeting: 7th March 2009.