

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held 2nd April 2011

Those Present: Brian Binley MP , Colin Bricher, David Cheney John Ellerby (NCC),, Cllr. Mathew Golby, Gyde Horrocks, Shaun Hope, Paul Minton, Patrick Rawlinson, Roy Sears, Geoff Steel, Tom Welsh, Timothy Webb.

Apologies: Simon Mitchell, Cllr. Suresh Patel, Daniel Smith, Paul Smith, , Elisabeth Townsend, David Trill, Cllr. Paul Varnsberry,

Minutes of Last Meeting: Apologies from the Secretary if the attendance list was not correct. The attendance sheet that was circulated went missing. Patrick felt the minutes did not reflect his discussion re the station and has kindly prepared a set the set of notes attached. We do need to think about a number of issues raised/reported here – including the station design, number of platforms/NR refusal of 4th platform, the implications of the line speeds for faster services and increased occupation by freight. Tom suggested that in future where a member makes a similar presentation they also provide some notes for inclusion with the minutes. Apologies from the Secretary for omitting to mention it was also Geoff Steel who met with NR concerning the new station.

NEW STATION ISSUES

Phil Hammond (PH) had understood the station to be funded, NR appear to have overstated the funding position.

We need to get leverage with NR over funding.

The UDC will remain in place for the next 3 years, which is good for the planning process.

NR will be broken into regional companies – question is how do we gain from this?

NR has refused the 4th platform – this seems very short sighted.

Funding – around £420 million needed, but not all will come from NR – question is how and where to look wider to fund the development.

DIRFT expansion will result in extra freight trains yet we need line capacity in Northampton to cope with expansion (extra 50,000 homes).

Does the 50,000 new homes and links to transport infrastructure point to a public inquiry? Is this an avenue to follow?

Consider location of new bus station relative to Castle Station.

FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH PHILLIP HAMMOND

As above, PH had understood the station to be funded.

Patrick reported: There will be no new trains in the near future. It appears that part of the decision not to consider allocating the new trains to Northampton was the time required to couple/uncouple diesel to electric units – but at 8 minutes the time quoted cannot be right.

Geoff felt the meeting generally positive.

John Ellerby though the meeting “on the right track” – but saw a hiatus between now and 2026 unless we get IEP.

A report by Aiden Burley is attached. This shows that as a result of HS-2 Northampton could expect 16 extra direct services to Euston per day, an increase of 46%. We are not sure how increased freight affects this.

WCML RE-FRANCHISE

There should be opportunities arising for us. WCML users group?

The important issue for us could be the DfT specification – how to influence?

CENTRAL AREA ACTION PLAN

Presentation deferred to post election.

AOB:

Cost of going via MK – the premium for routing via MK should be an issue for re-franchising.

The ORR is critical of all TOCs re provision of information – they say that TOCs are responsible.

ACTION ITEMS

E-mail to the University of Northampton regarding presence of the University of Northampton transport committee at NRUG meetings – **PAM**

Add UoN representative as blank line to attendance sheet - **PAM**

Press NBC & NCC to protect Northampton's interest over HS-2 – **Brian Binley & Paul Varnsvery**

See if we can get one of LM's timetabling staff for a future monthly meeting - **Geoff Steel/Paul Smith – IN HAND**

Make contact with Chiltern, Grand Central - **Paul Smith**

Add Chamber of Commerce to circulation list – **Paul Minton**

Write to NR re need for heated points at Riverside and Kings Heath – **PAM**

Background facts on fares increase – **Gyde Horrocks**

New rolling stock for LM – write again to CEO of LM to get confirmation of what we are getting by when – **Brian Binley**

Central area action plan presentation to NRUG – **Matthew Golby**

Northampton Rail User's Group

Agenda for Meeting to be held Saturday 7th May 2011 The Guildhall, Northampton

10.00 – 10.05: Meeting opens, apologies, minutes of last meeting and AOB

10.05 – 11.15: Work the issues with action plans:

How to get leverage for station funding?

Other sources of funding?

Northampton growth agenda and transport

IEP trains how to resolve coupling time issues?

What do we need to do to improve our chances of getting IEP?

Station design.

No 4th platform.

Line capacity issues, speed and freight utilisation.

WCML utilisation study (use GS “watershed” e-mail as template)

WCML re-franchise (ditto)

Nicola Moss meeting

11.15 – 11.30: Review of action items

11.30 – 11.40: AOB

11.45: Meeting closes

Dates of next meetings:

June 4th

July 2nd

September 3rd

October 1st

November 5th

December 3rd

