

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held 2nd October 2010

Those Present: Brian Binley MP, Colin Bricher, Simon Butterworth, David Cheney, Shaun Hope, Sally Keeble, Paul Minton, Simon Mitchell, Patrick Rawlinson, Paul Smith, Geoff Steel, Tom Welsh, Paul Varnsvarry.

Apologies: Julie Chambers, Mike Clark, John Ellerby, Gyde Horrocks, Roy Sears, Elisabeth Townsend, David Trill.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Note the following corrections: Patrick Rawlinson was present, Gyde Horrocks (not Horrax).

WHITHER NRUG

This was a free flowing discussion about the future and aims of the group. The summary of those discussions is recorded here.

The service objectives remain:

- Replacement for the 07.12

- Half hourly evenly spaced services to/from Birmingham New Street

- Two sub-60 minute services to/from Euston plus 2 with more stops

We should invite Chiltern Railways to a meeting to discuss what opportunities they might have for Northampton.

We support the opportunities HS-2 could bring for Northampton, and leave issues as to how it affects other parts of the county to others.

NRUG will request that NCC does not prioritise other areas of the county of Northampton over rail links and services.

NRUG will continue to support the TOCs (in this case especially LM) in their services.

NRUG remain committed to equality for disabled access both for the existing station and services, stations used elsewhere and for any new designs for Castle station.

We note that LM (Mitzi and Neil) will only attend once per quarter and will change the profile of the meetings accordingly. The quarterly meetings with Mitzi and Neil will be used for the “day to day” TOC liaison issues. The other monthly meetings will be used for the more strategic issues, such as new routes, HS-2, new station etc. This is intended to bring focus to each part of NRUGs agenda and not let each meeting follow the same patten of trying to cover everything each month.

Off peak restriction – Simon Mitchell will prepare a briefing sheet and the group will then decide what to do next.

IEP – is now tied up in the spending review. This is still a key item for Northampton, we need to understand the best way to progress this, recognising this should be an item for several years ahead and not get lost in the current spending round.

The general lack of commuters interest in NRUG was commented. As Sally pointed out, the number of commuters attending meetings tracks inversely the problems and issues being faced.

It was agreed that certain individuals in the group will be the prime people to lead specific issues:

Timetabling: Geoff Steel along with Paul Smith and Paul Varnsvarry

Publicity and Media: Paul Smith and Paul Varnsvarry

NBC/NCC: Paul Varnsvarry

Tom is now present as an individual member – there is no representation from the University.

Paul Smith will join the BTP forum.

New Station/WNDC Meeting

WNDC will attend the next meeting. The agenda is to include:

New station

HS-2transfer of planning to NCC

UDC phase out mechanism

Local Transport Plan

John Ellerby promised a presentation – secretary to remind him and schedule when. We would be interested in local transport planning, integration to other transport planning and a clarification of the consultation undertaken and required.

Timetable Planning Meeting

Our thanks are passed to Geoff Steel for attending this meeting and so competently representing our interests. Geoff reported:

The meeting took the form of a number of workshops discussing what users, RUGs etc want the timetable to be. LM was keen to improve services for Northampton and beyond. Euston/Crewe was a specific route on the agenda.

Even if Virgin get a franchise extension moderation of competition will end. LM will be keen to get new routes and services post 2012 accordingly.

It was disappointing that no one from NCC attended. All the other surrounding councils were present.

Sunday morning services will always suffer due to overnight maintenance work.

Late night services and more capacity for commuter trains are on the agenda.

The timetabling meetings will be a regular occurrence.

The group agreed that Geoff Steel, Paul smith and Paul Varnsvarry will be the prime contacts with LM regarding timetabling.

ACTION ITEMS

Write to the University of Northampton regarding presence of the University of Northampton transport committee at NRUG meetings – **Brian Binley**

Press release over station and next meeting – **Paul Varnsvarry/Paul Smith**

Talk informally to Phillip Hammond. Topics to include: IEP; additional carriages for existing fleet; fare increases - regulated and unregulated; line speed upgrade MK to Northampton to Rugby to enable Northampton to benefit fully from fast line slots; impact on upgrade via maintenance programmes if maintenance is cut back. – **Brian Binley**

Write to Network Rail re need for loop upgrade, and specifically emphasise the strategic importance of planned maintenance and upgrades via planned maintenance and the need for it to be in CP4 – **Brian Binley**

Send list of members to Brian – **Paul Minton**

Brief WNDC re next months meeting ie agenda is to include: New station; HS-2; transfer of planning to NCC and UDC phase out mechanism – **Brian Binley**

Remind John Ellerby re NCC transport presentation – **Paul Minton**

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

See if we can get NR to a meeting – **Geoff Steel/Paul Smith**

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

Prepare briefing sheet re off peak restrictions – **Simon Mitchell**

Write to NCC over lack of attendance at time tabling meeting. At same time express our thanks for John Ellerby's continued presence and effort - **Paul Varnsvarry**

Northampton Rail User's Group

Agenda for Meeting to be held Saturday 6th November 2010 The Guildhall, Northampton

10.00 – 10.10: Meeting opens, apologies, minutes of last meeting and AOB

10.10 – 11.00: WNDC – New station

11.00 – 11.10: WNDC – transfer of UDC to NCC

11.10 – 11.40: Review of action items from last meeting & new action items

11.40 – 11.50: AOB

11.50: Meeting closes