

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held 3rd September 2011

Those Present: Brian Binley MP, Colin Bricher, John Ellerby (NCC), Shaun Hope, Gyde Horrocks, Alan Jones, Mitzi Latham, Neil Langford, Simon Mitchell Paul Minton, Patrick Rawlinson, Paul Smith, David Trill, Paul Varnsvarry, Timothy Webb, Tom Welsh

Apologies: Daniel Smith, Elisabeth Townsend, Geoff Steel.

The attendance list failed to make its way back to me, so once again apologies if anyone is missed out.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Accepted.

LM REPORT

Performance for the last period has been very good, and the main detractor to performance has been infrastructure issues on the southern part of the route into Euston.

Neil brought some good news to the meeting – services to Birmingham will increase to 3 per hour with even clock-face spacing, and there will be increased services through to/from Crewe.

LM is planning to increase services as a result of the ending of moderation of competition next year.

LM has withdrawn on-board catering as a result of poor usage by passengers, too many people buy stuff from the station outlets prior to boarding and but too little to make the on-board service viable.

An issue with toilets out of service was raised, LM are aware of this and making changes to address.

Neil also told us that new rolling stock has been put into service on the Snow Hill routes.

NEW STATION/BUS STATION/TOWN CENTRE CONNECTIVITY

Patrick Rawlinson gave a report on recent meetings he had held with WNDC over this issue. A separate note prepared by Patrick is attached to these minutes (pdf file by e-mail).

A general discussion ensued about the bus station and the gateway from Castle Station to the town centre. Brian will write in Messrs Kennedy and Hadland to invite them to the next meeting for further discussions.

WCML RE-FRANCHISE

The meetings we want with the bidders have yet to happen - Secretary to invite the bidders to meetings 1st week October.

CENTRAL AREA ACTION PLAN

This may be in some flux – schedule a presentation for December – Secretary to contact Cllr Golby to progress.

COMPLETION OF AGM:

Sally Keeble was nominated, seconded and duly appointed as President.

Brian Binley was Keeble was nominated, seconded and duly appointed as Chair.

Geoff Steel and Paul Smith together were willing to share the role of Secretary, and were duly nominated proposed and appointed in the shared position.

Shaun Hope was nominated, seconded and duly appointed as Treasurer.

Paul Minton was nominated, seconded and duly appointed as Vice Chair.

Brian have a brief overview of the past year, in addition to the comments he made last meeting, mentioning specifically the challenge for rail I the future to pay its role in the expansion of Northampton with the planned 57,000 new homes, 20,000 new jobs and 10,000 additional commuters.

Brian thanked Neil and Mitzi both for their continued presence at these meetings and general support.

Brian thanked Paul Minton for his past service as Secretary and help in ensuring continuation of the group in the hand over from Sally to Brian.

Paul thanked Brian for his efforts over the year. Last year Sally and Paul had discussed the desire to see new leadership and new initiative after 10 or more years of NRUG, recognising the need for change and renewal and to find new enthusiasm to drive our agenda forward. It has been good to see a successful transition and the group going from strength to strength.

ACTION ITEMS

Propose dates to the franchise bidders – **PAM**

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

Add Chamber of Commerce to circulation list – **PAM (done – Paul Griffiths added)**

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

Submit ORR fares response – **PAM (done)**

Arrange Central Area Action Plan presentation to NRUG – **PAM to discuss with Matthew Golby**

Next agenda consider if July is a good month for a meeting and the AGM or whether to move the AGM to September - **PAM**

New rolling stock for LM – write again to CEO of LM to get confirmation of what we are getting by when – **BB, letter sent awaiting response**

Northampton Rail User's Group

**Draft Agenda for Meeting to be held Saturday 1st October 2011
The Guildhall, Northampton**

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

10.05 – 10.45: New Station & Bus Station

10.45-11.15: Franchise renewal

11.15 – 11.20: Proposal to move AGM to September

11.20 – 11.40 Review of action items

11.40 – 11.45: AOB

11.45: Meeting closes

Dates of next meetings:

November 5th

December 3rd