

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS' GROUP www.northamptonrug.org.uk

Minutes of meeting held 3rd October 2009 at the Guildhall, Northampton

Present: Colin Bricher, Simon Butterworth; Julie Chambers; David Cheney; John Ellerby (NCC); Chris Garden (WNDC); Shaun Hope; John Holdom-Eyles (London Midland); Mitzi Latham (London Midland); Simon Mitchell; Paul Minton; Allan Payne (Station Hackney Carriages); Patrick Rawlinson; Geoff Steel; Elisabeth Townsend; Tom Welsh (UoN); Cllr. Paul Varnsberry (NBC).

Apologies Michael Barlow; Sandi Coles; Gyde Horrocks; Sally Keeble MP Roy Sears; Daniel Smith; Paul Smith; David Trill

Minutes of last meeting Accepted

London Midland report: The meeting welcomed John Holdom-Eyles, the conductor manager to the meeting. Mitzi gave the performance figures as 88.6% and 90.7% and said that the figures were slowly but surely improving.

A long term solution was thought to prevent strikes happening as they did on Sunday 6th September. For the time being enhanced payments are being made to those drivers who volunteer to work on Sundays. This will continue till January of next year.

In the new timetable 5 new services will operate in the evening peak out of Euston to nearby destinations as far as Tring, this should free up seats for passengers who need to travel further.

The December timetable has not yet been finalised, so we don't know whether there will be a fast train that arrives in London before 8 o'clock.

Some discussion arose about whether there had ever been a promise of the reinstatement of the 7.12, some thought that this had been a possibility, others that the only thing that had been promised was 'tweaking' of the service. We are not sure whether there is a path available for a fast train that arrives in London before 8 o'clock or that there is a problem with rolling stock. Patrick said that we needed to see a 'working' timetable; this is available on the internet and we will attempt to make one available to him. Geoff will also be in touch again with Passenger Focus and see whether the correspondence between them and London Midland can be clarified.

If Sally manages to get Lord Adonis to attend a meeting, this is definitely something we need to raise with him.

The person replacing James Kennedy is Tracey Hall.

Mitzi is attempting to get more CCTV cameras to improve security especially in the 'new' bike shed.

She was aware that on Virgin stations it was much easier to find Virgin fares than London Midland ones.

Car parking and the new station

We were fortunate to have Chris Garden with us from the WNDC. He explained that there was no priority given by NR to the redevelopment of Northampton station. The grand plans to re-develop the whole site is on hold because of the recession and it is now doubtful whether the aggregate facility will be allowed to be moved. There are still plans for a new station facility and carpark with 1200 places and this is the reason that there is a reluctance to go for a temporary facility to alleviate parking problems as they present at the moment. A discussion regarding some of the design points ensued.

For general information and to serve as a better record, Chris kindly agreed to prepare

a short article for the website

Any other business. Sally had asked that Alan Payne from the station Hackney carriages attend the meeting. We were not quite sure what she had in mind, but were pleased that Alan had been present. Mitzi said that there were concessions made on both sides for the benefit of passengers and that these were ongoing.

Dates for the next meeting 7th November, 5th December

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 November 2009

at

THE GUILDHALL

NORTHAMPTON

at 10.00 AM

1. 10.00 - Attendance and apologies
2. 10.02 - Minutes of 3rd October meeting and matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda
3. 10.05 - London Midland Report
4. 10.30 - Virgin Report
5. 10.40 - Network Rail
6. 11.10 - Timetable & Service issues and campaigns
 - service usage figures etc
 - cancellation statistics etc
 - MKRUG meeting
 - New fast trains
7. 11.40 - AOB (Please notify the Chair before the meeting of any items of AOB to be discussed.)
8. 11.45 - Meeting closes

Date of next meeting: 5th December 2009