

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held 4th February 2012

Those Present: Alan Jones, Brian Binley MP, Colin Bricher, John Ellerby, Shaun Hope, Simon Mitchell, David Trill, Tom Welsh.

Apologies: David Cheney, Gyde Horrocks, Paul Taylor (UoN), Paul Smith, Neil Langford, Geoff Steel, Paul Varnsverry.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Due to the unfortunate illness of the Secretary minutes for the last meeting are not available.

Paul Smith sends his apologies and due to continued illness has asked to resign from the position of Secretary. The group thank him for his support and willingness, wish him well in the next few weeks, and look forward to seeing him once again at our meetings in the near future.

Station Update.

Brian reports that he is encouraged by the responses and investments made by WNDC and NBC to make this project progress. Brian plans to meet Eric Pickles and Justin Greening and is hopeful they too will support the proposals for a new heritage gateway into Northampton and recognise the important connections with the proposed enterprise zone.

Brian will ask NCC to present the whole town centre plan with reference to how the station fits into the plan at a future meeting.

Project 110.

Whilst the “good bits” of Project 110 are welcomed, NCC remain of the view that the off-peak services along the Trent Valley were well used, Northampton should not lose them and are acting accordingly.

HS-2.

Following the recent announcements HS-2 is now becoming “accepted as reality”. The arguments for HS-2 are moving more to reflect capacity constraints and the need for new rail to provide capacity and away from just speed and time to Birmingham. WCML was anticipated to be at saturation capacity by 2026, the date is now thought to be 2024. HS-2 would not be operational until 2030.

Aims and Objectives for 2012.

1. New Station
2. More sensible ticket cost approach with a better split between taxpayer/provider and the consumer
3. Transport integration for Northampton
4. Franchise and service provision 2013/14

Meeting topics for 2012.

In view of the large number of first Saturdays being bank holidays the meeting program for 2012 has been changed to the second Saturday of each month. The program for the year is:

10 March: London Midland

14 April: Putting the station and town centre jigsaw together.

12 May: tickets and pricing

9 June: London Midland and Transport Plan (NCC)

14 July: Network Rail/maintenance

8 Sept: Franchising, ORR & AGM

Action Items

1. Ask John Markham to attend 14th April meeting – Brian Binley
2. Arrange NCC to present at 9th June meeting – John Ellerby

Northampton Rail Users' Group

**Agenda for Meeting to be held Saturday 10th March 2012
The Guildhall, Northampton**

10.00 – 10.05: Minutes of last meeting and AOB

10.05 – 10.45: London Midland Report

10.45 – 11.00: Project 110 updates

11.00 - 11.15: Attendance and publicity

11.15-11.30: AOB.