

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held 4th September 2010

Those Present: Brian Binley MP, David Cheney, John Ellerby, Shaun Hope, Sally Keeble, Mitzi Latham, Roy Sears, Paul Smith, Elisabeth Townsend, Tom Welsh, Paul Varnsvarry.

Apologies: Julie Chambers, Mike Clark, Colin Bricher, Gyde Horrax, Simon Mitchell, David Trill, Neil Langford.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Accepted

London Midland Report (Mitzi Latham)

Mitzi reported some good performance figures with London/Northampton PPM at 94.9%. This is a significant improvement over the past 12 months and was welcomed by NRUG.

A comment was made about the ½ price tickets being internet only, not over the counter and only on the LM website (not National Rail). Not over the counter was a decision by LM to avoid excessive queuing.

New customer information screens are being installed at Northampton.

Other Service Issues

Virgin: A comment was made about finding Virgin uniformed staff “less helpful”. The 06.42 is still a Voyager and leads to capacity issues – Secretary to write to Virgin about this.

HS-2: The case for asking for a Brackley stop was raised, but was left as an issue for South Northants and not this group. As far as NRUG is concerned HS-2 is an opportunity for releasing WCML capacity for Northampton and we will avoid the detail debate on HS-2 or getting involved with services to other areas.

NCC supports HS-2 in principle but still has issues with routing. Brian will request a formal meeting over HS-2 with NCC to press our case.

New Station: the question of a station master plan was raised. The station should be a topic for a future meeting.

Timetable working Session, Bletchley: LM have invited us to a timetable working session in Bletchley on 1st October. Geoff Steel, Paul Smith and Paul Varnsvarry will attend for NRUG. NRUG issues are:

- 4 trains per hour to Euston, 2 fast, even timings around the clockface. 2 trains per hour to Birmingham, again evenly timed.
- Birmingham is the 2013 city of culture and may need train services accordingly.
- Off-peak restrictions in the evening and differences to other TOCs on timings of such restrictions.
- LM plans following removal of moderation of competition and open access – especially as may affect the continuing of the non-stop 06.42 to Euston and a replacement for the much lamented 07.12.

- Strengthening and extending the Trent Valley services, especially later into the evening.
- Sunday services.

Chiltern Railways: Chiltern are interested in running to Bletchley. Suggestion is to invite them to a NRUG meeting and see what opportunities there are for Chiltern to run to Northampton.

AGM

Chairperson's report: Sally thanked the group for support over her 10 years as Chair and 15 years in the group. Sally said there are big challenges ahead, not least with the spending review and ending of Virgin franchise and a strong voice for Northampton is needed.

Roy thanked Sally on behalf of the group for all her efforts and particularly the political capital she had spent on behalf of Northampton rail.

Treasurers Report: the accounts show a positive balance of £450, an increase over last year as income exceeds expenditure. Subs are due.

Nominations & elections: the following were duly nominated, seconded and elected:

- Chair: Brian Binley MP
- Vice chair: Pauk Varnsvarry
- Secretary: Paul Minton:
- Treasurer: Shaun Hope:
- Publicity & Liaison: Paul Smith

Brian thanked the group for his election and expressed his keen support and desire to maintain the keen cross party agreement to work for the benefit of Northampton. He thanked Elisabeth for her time on the committee and all the efforts she has put in over the years.

Northampton Rail User's Group

**Agenda for Meeting to be held Saturday 2nd October 2010
The Guildhall, Northampton**

Meeting opens 10.00am
Meeting closes 11.30 am

WHITHER NRUG

This meeting will be an open discussion on the aims and objectives for NRUG