

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held 5th March 2011

Those Present: Colin Bricher, Simon Butterworth, David Cheney John Ellerby (NCC), Cllr. Mathew Golby, Gyde Horrocks, Shaun Hope, Mitzi Latham, Neil Langford, Paul Minton, Patrick Rawlinson, Roy Sears, Tom Welsh, Paul Varnsberry.

Apologies: Brian Binley MP, Cllr. Suresh Patel, Paul Smith, Geoff Steel, Elisabeth Townsend, David Trill.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Accepted with the exception that Simon Butterworth was present.

Apologies from the Secretary if the attendance list is not correct. The attendance sheet that was circulated went missing.

LONDON MIDLAND REPORT

Neil reviewed performance for period 10. London and SE rotes showed PPMs of 74.8%, reflecting the bad winter weather. Period 11 was better at 89.2%.

The points issue at Northampton was raised again – but this is a NR and not LM topic.

A number of performance and service related issues over the Christmas period in particular were aired with Neil and Mitzi.

Continued poor performance for the 07.00 to Euston was raised, this was down to a variety of failures, largely infrastructure.

The ruling that the ASLEF ballot was flawed has been over-ruled. A series of actions are expected, particularly with regard to not working overtime and Sundays.

Gyde raised the issue of ticket office closures. Neil said there would be no changes at Castle Station. The key issue Neil was asked to consider for users of TVMs rather than over the counter purchases was the balance between buying tickets knowing or being made aware of restrictions vs fines and penalties being levied for having the wrong ticket.

Tom suggested that putting TVMs on the university campus would help alleviate queuing at the station.

Concerns over the use and manning of the wide aisle gate at Euston were raised – particularly the slow speed of resolution when tickets through the automated barriers do not work.

INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Patrick (and others) had met with NR and discussed the loop upgrade. The upgrade to 85mph for the northern part is scheduled for 2015. The southern part is already 110 mph. However with DIRFT tripling in size more freight will use the line and this will limit both capacity and speed.

We need to think what to do in light of this information.

MEETING WITH PHILLIP HAMMOND

Patrick, John Ellerby and Geoff Steel will attend.

STATION

NR have said no to the 4th platform on cost grounds.

Concerns remain about the multi-level design as regards equal access.

AOB: None

ACTION ITEMS

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

Add UoN representative as blank line to attendance sheet - **PAM**

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

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

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

Make contact with Chiltern, Grand Central - **Paul Smith**

Add Chamber of Commerce to circulation list – **Paul Minton**

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

Background facts on fares increase – **Gyde Horrocks**

New rolling stock for LM – write again to CEO of LM to get confirmation of what we are getting by when – **Brian Binley**

WM & Chilterns RUS consultation response – **PS/GS/PV**

Central area action plan presentation to NRUG – **Matthew Golby**

Northampton Rail User's Group

Agenda for Meeting to be held Saturday 2nd April 2011 The Guildhall, Northampton

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

10.05 – 10.30: Feedback from Phil Hammond Meeting

10.30-11.00: Central area action plan overview – Cllr Golby

11.00 – 11.15: Sunday services, weekday cancellations etc

11.15 – 11.20: Nicola Moss meeting

11.20 – 11.40: Review of action items

11.40 – 11.45: AOB

11.45: Meeting closes

Dates of next meetings:

May 7th

June 4th

July 2nd

September 3rd

October 1st

November 5th

December 3rd