

**Minutes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010-06-05**

**Present:** Julie Chambers; David Cheney; John Ellerby (NCC); Anne Grant (Virgin Trains); Shaun Hope; Sally Keeble; Neil Langford (London Midland); Mitzi Latham (London Midland); Simon Mitchell; Paul Smith; Pauline Taylor (Virgin Trains); Elisabeth Townsend; Paul Varnsvery (NBC); Tom Welsh (University of Northampton)

**Apologies:** Sandi Coles; Gyde Horrocks; Paul Minton; Patrick Rawlinson; David Trill

**Minutes of the last meeting:** Accepted.

**Arising from the minutes:** The evening peak restrictions are between 16.45 and 18.45 and are well signposted on all stations, including Euston.

**London Midland Report** (Neil Langford)

Performance PPM for the period ending 29<sup>th</sup> May was 91.8 % for the whole of London Midland, 91.1% for the stretch between London and Northampton. For Northampton/ Birmingham this was 84.5%. There were several reasons for the difference between the two figures.

Reliability: 97% for the whole of the network, 98.7% for the stretch between London and Northampton.

Announcements in the train are still of great concern, train managers are being trained to deal with the issue and should follow a wrong announcement with the right one, but this does not always happen. We are not quite sure whether London Midland quite grasp the importance of this issue, it has been a concern for several months, it has been 'taken back' on several occasions and it still happens. There are disability issues as well.

Members expressed appreciation of the decking of the car park and the general feeling was that there was a good service on the whole.

**Virgin Trains:** We welcomed Anne Grant and Pauline Taylor to the meeting.

It was acknowledged that Northampton is the first to lose trains when anything goes wrong. They realise that this is difficult for us, but there is nothing that can be done about it. John Ellerby's suggestion that out of three trains arriving in London around 8 o'clock one could come through Northampton will be taken back and discussed as will the suggestion that weekend trains that come through Northampton could actually stop there. There was the usual: it is not our decision but that of the DfT.

Information about engineering works affecting Virgin had been put up very recently.

We asked if Virgin had plans to extend their service to Northampton, but this could not be answered. There was no update on the franchise renewal or the moderation of competition.

**Campaign issues:** For the long term future we need to link in with other RUGs. We have found this very difficult in the past but feel it is worthwhile having another go at it.

**HS2** Northampton wants this to go ahead as it will free up capacity on the West Coast Mainline. We must make sure that the noises that are against it from the south of the county do not give the impression that Northampton as a county is against this idea. John Ellerby assured us that this is not the case.

**IEP** We are not sure whether the railway press is correct in saying that this project is now dead. We could write to the DfT for clarification but they would probably just say that decisions have not yet been made. Since these are hybrid trains and very expensive it is quite likely that the railway press is right.

**December timetable** There will be very few changes in this timetable, just small tweaks, like a freight train taken out of the timetable in the evening peak which will free up a little bit of capacity.

### **Preparation for the AGM**

One difficulty is that we do not appear to have a copy of the constitution in our joint possession. Sally will have a look to see what she can find, since she was the one that put the first one together.

As far as the choosing of a new committee is concerned, people should volunteer to serve or nominate someone else in writing to the secretary before the AGM. Four officers should be chosen, and five 'members' to form an executive committee.

We shall post the minutes and these instructions on the website.

Mitzi's suggestion that the monthly meeting should be held at the station on a Tuesday evening can be proposed by a paid up member of the group and then voted on at the AGM. Mitzi has been told that this is the case. Sally mentioned that it would be virtually impossible for MPs to be involved on a Tuesday evening and councillors usually have meetings on Tuesday evenings too.

We will ask Passenger Focus whether they can send a delegate to the AGM.

John Ellerby will now speak to the transport strategy 2011 – 2016 in the September meeting.

**Next meeting** AGM on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010 at 10 am at the Guildhall.