

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

Minutes of meeting held 6th February 2010 at the Guildhall, Northampton

Present: James Alexander; Colin Bricher ; Simon Butterworth; David Cheney; John Ellerby (NCC); ; Gyde Horrocks; Shaun Hope; Sally Keeble MP; Alan Jones; Neil Langford (London Midland); Mitzi Latham (London Midland); Paul Minton; Simon Mitchell; Patrick Rawlinson; Paul Smith; Elisabeth Townsend; David Trill; Tom Welsh (UoN);

Apologies Michael Barlow, Julie Chambers; , Sandi Coles; Roy Sears; Daniel Smith; Geoff Steel; Cllr. Paul Varnsvery (NBC)

Minutes of last meeting Accepted.

London Midland report: (Neil Langford): the national passenger survey shows London Midland to be one of 3 TOCs showing significantly improved performance over the past year and the most improved over the past period. NRUG are very pleased to see this, and on behalf on NRUG Sally expressed thanks to the staff of L-M who made this happen.

December performance vs 89.6% PPM, whilst January fell to 83.5% due to the bad weather.

The disappointment with the new off-peak restrictions was raised. Northampton appear to get a worse deal than MK for off-peak fares since Virgin are selling off-peak for departures before 09.00 from MK. This is a facet of the franchise arrangements.

Northampton seems to fare badly out of the new restrictions, with through tickets to stations north of Northampton, or other stations connecting from London not being restricted. The topic was left to the forthcoming meeting with Lord Adonis.

Announcements were again discussed at some length. The correction of wrong (automated) announcements by the conductor was recognised as useful, but it was felt surprising that not all wrong announcements were corrected. Sally had a recent experience of a train on platform 3 for Euston having an announcement that it was Birmingham bound.

In follow up to an incident of vandalism to a car LM reported that it is planned to install additional CCTVs on platforms 2,3 and 4 and the cycle sheds and improve the imaging on the existing cameras. There are around 40 cameras covering the station and car park. Bike thefts have significantly reduced following some arrests in the Hemel Hemstead/Leighton Buzzard area.

Virgin Report: The secretary had spoken to Tracey Hall - she will attend the June meeting, which is her next rostered Saturday co-inciding with a NRUG meeting.

John Ellerby had received a reply to his letter to virgin regarding early morning trains via Northampton - the reply saying that the three morning trains could not come via Northampton since they were required for early morning Euston departures - which does not really make any sense.

Network Rail: Paul Minton contacted Andy Bliss with the agenda of items we wished to discuss. Andy said he was the wrong person and would find someone else to come.

Lord Adonis Meeting: the agenda was discussed at length. A briefing sheet for the

meeting was subsequently prepared by the secretary and is attached to these minutes for information.

AOB: None

Dates for the next meetings: 6th March 2010 in the station training room.

No meeting April due to Easter, 1st May 2010 to be decided, then 5th June 2010.



PRICING

NRUG are opposed to the price increases resulting from the recent introduction of off peak travel restrictions.

- **Inequality for Northampton**
 - ÿ Through travel north of Northampton and travel via Euston to other London urban and connecting locations are not affected
- **Lack of notice and consultation**
- **Contrary to the objectives of a modal change to rail**
- **Contrary to the principle of impartial marketing**
 - ÿ Northampton is a single franchise station with no opportunity for fare competition

SERVICE PROVISION

The MKSM growth agenda geographically encompasses Northampton and South Northamptonshire. Rail is an essential to achieving the growth agenda.

- **ICEP gives increased WCML fast track access for Northampton**
 - ÿ Benefits through accessing existing infrastructure, not building more
- **Upgrading Northampton to Rugby track speed:**
 - ÿ completes “WCML four track railway upgrade”
 - ÿ provides redundancy to the WCML as a whole
- **ICEP plus track speed upgrade realises the full potential of WCML:**
 - ÿ Benefits Northampton and MKSM whilst keeping benefits of Pendolino high speeds for locations further north
 - ÿ Win-win for local and more distant users on the WCML

HIGH SPEED RAIL

- **NRUG supports high speed rail, we want HS-2 to happen**
 - ÿ Want the benefits of capacity released on the WCML to be available to Northampton
 - ÿ Willing to work with other stakeholders to achieve this

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 6th March 2010

at

THE GUILDHALL

NORTHAMPTON

at 10.00 AM

1. 10.00 - Attendance and apologies
2. 10.02 - Minutes of 6th February meeting and matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda
3. 10.05 - London Midland Report
4. 10.25 - Virgin Issues
5. 10.30 - Feedback, Lord Adonis meeting
6. 11.00 - Meeting on May 1st?
7. 11.05 - AOB (Please notify the Chair before the meeting of any items of AOB to be discussed.)
8. 11.15 - Meeting closes

Date of next meeting: 6th March 2010 - Northampton station training room