

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS' GROUP

Minutes of meeting held 6th June 2009 at the Guildhall, Northampton

Present: Michael Barlow; Simon Butterworth; Julie Chambers; David Cheney; Youssef Cockbaine (L-M); John Ellerby (NCC); Debbie Johnston (L-M); Shaun Hope; Gyde Horrocks; Sally Keeble MP; Mitzi Latham (L-M); Simon Mitchell; Patrick Rawlinson; Roy Sears; Paul Smith; Elisabeth Townsend; Tom Welsh (UoN).

Apologies Colin Bricher; Paul Minton; Daniel Smith; Geoff Steel; David Trill.

Minutes of last meeting Accepted

London Midland report Youssef was expected to come a bit later into the meeting and so we had a very brief report from Mitzi and a fuller report from Youssef later. Mitzi spoke about the issues concerning black cabs at the station and how they were being dealt with. Problems with signage were also mentioned and John is hoping to bring a colleague from the engineering department to a future meeting.

Meeting in London with MKRUG We had to wait for Youssef to know which date was possible, so we decided to work out what people we wanted to come to this meeting and what the agenda should be:-

People involved:- NRUG, MKRUG, representatives from both councils (MKRUG to invite their own)

TOCs, Network Rail, but not, at this stage the DfT. We want to come with a joint plan to the DfT to have a greater chance of achieving what we want to achieve.

We need to work out ways of working together, so that we not lobby against each other, especially in the realm of East/West connections and the High Speed Rail Link to Scotland.

Website The website is up and running and contains mainly information. People are not using it to interact with each other and/or with the rail company. We do need to keep sending material to the website and use it.

Sally had to leave at this point and Gyde took the chair.

Youssef arrived very soon after this.

He gave the percentages for the ppm and said that they had greatly improved in the past three months. He is hopeful that figures might improve further.

There had been difficulties on Thursday with a broken down freight train and signal failures in the Bletchley area. Mitzi was disappointed that there had been no announcements in Euston to advise people of alternative routes since she had done all she could to inform staff at Euston.

The 9.05 is going to increase to an 8-car train, the carriages being taken from the 7.17 to Birmingham. This will not please everybody, especially since it might encourage more people to avoid the 'nightmare' trip to Birmingham with stops at every thick tree. Youssef said there simply wasn't the rolling stock available.

We asked about the decking of the car park, which has happened in Leighton Buzzard and Tring. Why not in Northampton? It had been on the cards long enough. Youssef said that there was the difficulty that we didn't want to compromise the long term solution for the improvement of the station by a short term solution. The WNDC determines the political agenda.

Paul Minton had sent a message to the meeting saying that it was now cheaper for his wife to take him to the station than to park the car for the day and was that really an encouragement to reduce the carbon footprint? Youssef said there were several schemes to reduce the overall cost of car parking. Paul had also asked about information given out by Network Rail concerning punctuality which were much more favourable than the figures we had. How were they calculated?

Talking about the meeting in Euston Youssef said that 7th July was a perfectly good day to have the meeting in Euston, but he had understood from Philip Lawton of MKRUG that he would prefer a meeting in Milton Keynes or Northampton and that he had found it difficult to get in touch with Sally to discuss matters. We decided to go ahead with the meeting on the 7th July and inform Philip as soon as possible of this date.

AOB We asked about the tables in the Desiro Mark 2 and Youssef said that there were moves afoot to add these to the trains as soon as was practical.

The next meeting is the AGM. Youssef said that he would try and get 'someone special' for us on that date.

Dates of the next meetings

4th July 2009 and 5th September 2009

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 4th July 2009

at

THE GUILDHALL

NORTHAMPTON

at 10.00 AM

1. 10.00 - Attendance and apologies
2. 10.02 - Minutes of 6th June meeting and matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda
3. 10.05 - London Midland Report
4. 10.20 - Virgin Report
5. 10.30 - Timetable & Service issues and campaigns
 - service usage figures etc
 - cancellation statistics etc
 - MKRUG meeting and way ahead
 - Transport Authority, RUGs, MKRUG, EW consortium meeting
 - new station
 - life after Geoff Hoon's departure, what to do next?
6. 11.00 - New Issues
 - ATOC report response
 - NCC & WNDC transport strategy
 - WCMLRUSG feedback (Geoff Steel report)
6. 11.20 Website updates
7. 11.30 AGM
 - Chairperson's report
 - Treasurer's report
 - election of officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary, liaison officer, treasurer)
8. 11.50 AOB (Please notify the Chair before the meeting of any items of AOB to be discussed.)
7. 12.00 - Meeting closes

Date of next meeting: 5th September 2009