

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held 8th January 2011

Those Present: Brian Binley MP, Colin Bricher, John Ellerby (NCC), Cllr. Mathew Golby, Shaun Hope, Gyde Horrocks, Paul Minton, Patrick Rawlinson, Geoff Steel, Paul Smith, Tom Welsh, Paul Varnsverry.

Apologies: David Cheney, Elisabeth Townsend, David Trill.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Accepted, noting that Mathew Golby was also present.

3rd LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

A reply to the 3rd LTP was formulated, specific issues being: lack of mention of core services for Northampton and the proposed new Castle Station; pedestrian connectivity through the town; protection of the Bedford line bed from development; support HS-2 for whatever released capacity on WCML can do for Northampton.

FARES & SERVICE

The fares increase appears to be closer to 8% than RPI +1 and it is not clear why.

Service over Christmas: webmaster has received an email concerning service issues to be forwarded to LM. Passengers seem to have a general feeling of poor service provision up to and around Christmas. Announcements and information were again a major shortcoming. Secretary to write to LM and forward letter received.

Long term service quality: what will we get by 2015? How does improved provision link to fares increases? Loop speed upgrade and IEP are 2 specific issues to be addressed.

First stop Warrington and lack of connectivity at Rugby is an issue.

MEETING WITH PHILLIP HAMMOND

To be organised – actions associated in actions list below.

AOB:

WCML RUS – recognises the needs of commuters then ignores them in favour of trains not stopping and serving.

Virgin are open to rebid for their franchise.

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**

Arrange meeting with Phillip Hammond. Topics to include: IEP; additional carriages for existing fleet; fare increases - regulated and unregulated; line speed upgrade MK to Northampton to Rugby to enable Northampton to benefit fully from fast line slots; impact on upgrade via maintenance programmes if maintenance is cut back; more Rugby stops. – **Brian Binley**

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

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**

Bus signs off West Bridge – **John Ellerby - DONE**

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

Christmas disruptions on agenda for next time LM attend – **PAM**

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

Submit 3rd LTP consultation response – **PAM (done)**

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

Prepare brief on rolling stock and track – **Patrick Rawlinson**

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

WCML RUS response - **PS/GS/PV**

Write to LM re Christmas services, disruption, letter received etc – **PAM**

Write to NCC re Bedford track protection – **PAM**

Get update on plans for Castle Station – **Paul Varnsvery**

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

Northampton Rail User's Group

Agenda for Meeting to be held Saturday 5th February 2011 The Guildhall, Northampton

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

10.05 – 10.20: Fares Increase

10.20-10.30: Castle Station plans

10.30 – 10.50: RUS consultation feedbacks by subgroup

10.50 – 11.10 Service issues

11.10 – 11.30: Phillip Hammond Meeting

11.30 – 11.45: AOB

11.45: Meeting closes

Dates of next meetings:

March 5th

April 2nd

May 7th

June 4th

July 2nd

September 3rd

October 1st

November 5th

December 3rd

