

**NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS' GROUP [www.northamptonrug.org.uk](http://www.northamptonrug.org.uk)**

**Minutes of meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at the Guildhall, Northampton**

**Present:** Julie Chambers; David Cheney; John Ellerby (NCC); Shaun Hope; Neil Langford (London Midland); Mitzi Latham (London Midland); Simon Mitchell; Paul Minton; Patrick Rawlinson; Roy Sears; Paul Smith; Geoff Steel; Tom Welsh (UoN).

**Apologies:** James Alexander; Michael Barlow; Sandi Coles; Alan Jones; Daniel Smith; Elisabeth Townsend; David Trill.

**Minutes of last meeting:** Accepted.

**London Midland Report** (Neil Langford)

Performance PPM for period ending March was 92.5% overall for the last period, with London Euston routes at 89.4%. Reliability was 98.2% and 98.6% respectively. Generally there were fewer infrastructure issues and everyone is getting better at managing infrastructure issues.

Disruptions at New Street may be result from the Gateway revamp starting early May. A new great escape offer is planned with 100,000 tickets. Lessons learnt from the last time will include restrictions on peak trains and avoiding queues by limiting the times.

Car parking – the decking will go ahead in May.

Hammers have been removed from the carriages, this follows safety recommendations & assessments following the Maidenhead accident investigation.

Waiting room at MK – Puccino's acts as a waiting room, both when it is open and closed as a snack bar. There are also other waiting rooms at the ends of the platforms. It was felt that off peak limitations for Euston need to be clarified at Euston.

The 18.49 ex Euston is now 12 cars – NRUG thanked LM for this.

The taxi ranks will be opened to other operators in the spirit of competition.

**Virgin**

Virgin will be present next meeting. The following topics were suggested:

Appreciate the Voyager when the Pendolino is unavailable but any chance of 2 linked units for capacity?

22.50 ex Birmingham does not always run and info on bus replacement is scarce. As a last train this is an important service for Northampton.

Franchise update & Moderation of competition.

Emphasise our desire for re-instatement of the 07.12

**Other**

We need to establish the current status of IEP – replacement or cancelled?

Could we get an "Ebbsfleet equivalent" fast service for Northampton

We need to get pressure into the next timetable review.

2011-2016 transport strategy – John Ellerby will take as an agenda item for the AGM.

**Next Meeting:**

Saturday 5th June

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - AGM

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 5th June 2010**

**at**

**THE GUILDHALL**

**NORTHAMPTON**

**at 10.00 AM**

1. 10.00 - Attendance and apologies
2. 10.02 - Minutes of 24th April meeting and matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda
3. 10.05 - London Midland Report
4. 10.20 - Virgin Trains
5. 11.00 - Campaign issues
  - HS2
6. 11.15 - Preparation for the AGM
  - Nominations for officers – a time for change too?
  - Mitzi's proposal to move meetings to weekday evenings
  - thanks and recognition for Sally
  - "life without Sally" on the agenda item for the AGM
  - invitation of new MPs to the AGM
7. 11.50 - AOB (Please notify the Chair before the meeting of any items of AOB to be discussed.)
8. 12.00 - Meeting closes

**Date of next meeting: AGM on 3rd July 2010 in the Guildhall**