

Meldreth, Shepreth & Foxton Rail User Group Meeting
16 June 2010, 20.00– 21.30
Foxton Village Hall

Minutes

Attendees/Station:		Apologies:	
Beatrice Fisher, Meldreth	BF	Jon Burn	
Sue Hanson, Meldreth	SuH	Robin Tunnah	
Jane Eggleton, Meldreth	JaE	Jose Hales	
Jim Eggleton, Meldreth	JiE	Surinder Soond	
Patricia Evans, Meldreth	PE	Rebecca Willers	
Robin Smith, Foxton	RS	Tom Blundell	
M. Manning, Foxton	MM	Meb Somani	
CC Cook, Foxton	CC	Steve Hawkins	
SS Cook, Foxton	SC	John Evans	
Laura Mungovan, Shepreth (Minutes)	LM	Representation from user village and outside bodies	Railfuture East Anglia, Cambs Campaign for Better Transport
David Grech, Whaddon	DG		
Geoff Robinson, Meldreth	GR		
Peter Wakefield, RailFuture	PW		
Simon Norton, Cambridge	SN		
Geoff Barnes, Foxton	GB		
Simon Bedlow, Meldreth	SB		
Susan van de Ven, Meldreth (Chair)	SV		

1.	<p>Welcome and apologies SV welcomed all new members.</p>	Actions
3.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting <i>Student discount fares:</i> FCC agreed to co-operate with Cambs County Council on a discount fare, however, this was not filtered down to the stations, which resulted in confusion at Meldreth Station on what exactly the arrangements are, especially when a replacement ticket needs to be issued.</p> <p><i>Continuing campaign by Meldreth Manor community for disabled access improvements:</i> The contractor used the wrong type of yellow paint on the ramp, which should have been non-slip paint. The yellow painted sections will have to be dug out and the work re-done and properly painted. FCC to undertake this work, but they have no budget left. FCC have no budget left for the second disabled ramp to the London Platform, but have agreed to submit a bid in September to Access for All. We have been advised to keep this issue alive for when the next franchise comes.</p>	<p>SV to chase CCC for clear info</p>

4. **MSF Rail User Group organisation**

a. *Meeting cycle*

To alternate venues between the 3 stations (next meeting at Shepreth in September. AGM in Melbourn, invite Police, parish and County Councils, etc. SV to action

b. *Subscriptions for new members*

All new attendees have paid £1

c. *Requests to parish councils to cover meeting room hire*

SV hasn't heard back officially, but looks promising.

5. **Rail Campaign updates**

SV had a very positive meeting with Richard Marchant (FCC Station Services Manager for "Fen Line") who gave advice on how we can take issues forward and protect our stations diplomatically, politely and persistently.

a. *New passenger figures:*

Meldreth – 1.8% rise

Shepreth – 1.5% rise

Foxtton – 21.7% rise

- Meldreth figures were more than the official count, according to Rail East Magazine, who complained to FCC. As a result, FCC have revised their way of calculating numbers.
- People seem to be travelling from far away to park in Foxtton village, which doesn't make sense. The car park policy in the other stations are making people drive further, causing a nuisance in Foxtton. There doesn't seem to be a logic in charging, as FCC must be losing money.
- The parking issue was raised in February, and SV wrote to the police, who are now aware, especially after the Police Panel Meeting in April. A productive meeting has now taken place with Susan, Police, County Highways and Parish Council reps; this will be followed up by site visits to Station Roads in each village to look at problems of dangerous parking outside rail station entrances.
- There was a suggestion by Railfuture East Anglia to involve CCC's transport department, and Waterbeach was sited as a good example of what we can do next.

**SV to
visit
Water
beach**

b. *Parking charges at Meldreth and Shepreth stations*

- Charges at Meldreth station reduced to £2 a day, and although these are the lowest charges of any station, we'd like to see further reductions.
- Unfortunately, Shepreth station charges have gone up to £3 a day (from £2.50) without any consultation. This makes no sense, as the car park has been empty since charging began and the rise will not bring vehicles into the car park.

c.	<p><i>Parking problems around stations</i> Will report members' concerns to parish councils. Police are aware of the problems. SV suggested Civil Parking Enforcements, which is now being considered by the County Council.</p>	SV
d.	<p><i>Ticket machine readability problems</i> Waterbeach station is trialling new ticket machine, as a result of various passengers complaining. The Customer Comment form was distributed among members, who were encouraged to fill them out and pass them to their friends/colleagues. This form is also available from Meldreth Station.</p>	
e.	<p><i>Timetabling suggestion feedback from FCC</i> SB to send timetabling suggestion regarding the new service from London. FCC was thanked for the introduction of a new service to Cambridge (09.43 Meldreth, 09.45 Shepreth, 09.48 Foxton).</p>	SB
f.	<p><i>Foxton cycle racks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle route from Harston to Foxton in pipeline. • As FCC had spent all their budget, CCC came up with funding, land and plans for 10 cycle racks at Foxton Station. FCC still hasn't installed these. • Write a letter with the following points: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rise in footfall in Foxton 2. Parking is Police Panel priority 3. No car park, county has provided land, plans and budget 	SV to chase
g.	<p><i>Vandalism and ASB at stations</i> Surprised that levels of vandalism in Foxton is the highest of any stations. This doesn't get reported because the British Transport Police don't communicate the information to Cambs Police. SV has written to the police about this problem. Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selling tickets at village shops (rejected because of cost of installing extra machines in each shop staff training too expensive, can't hold stack of tickets) • Bring back guards (rejected) 	
h.	<p><i>Progress on disabled access to Meldreth Station</i> FCC promised they would put a bid for the "Access for All" funding in September.</p>	SV to remind them
i.	<p><i>Website activity</i> Foxton and Melbourn village websites are posting minutes and other relevant documents. SV has asked Shepreth and David Grech would ask Whaddon. Other ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW has offered to try to find out if someone could help (charge of £100 a year). • Mebourn Village College students to set up a website as a project 	
j.	<p><i>Other communication</i> Parish magazines very willing to help out with articles.</p>	

6. Any other updates

- Cheaper advance tickets can be bought at Meldreth Station before 11.15am weekdays.
- Delay repay leaflets distributed.
- Herts & Beds CC have scheme where any senior bus pass holders receive a 50% discount on rail travel (worth pursuing?)
- Senior Railcards can be bought from the City Council at Mandela House and from South Cambs DC in Cambourne for £20 (a £6 discount). Passengers can buy these over the phone.
- No shelter on Meldreth Station on Cambridge platform
- Bring stations back to communities by using signposts at other villages etc.
- Buses linked to other villages (i.e. Harston, Barrington, Fowlmere etc)
- Meldreth lifts?

7. Date of next meeting

15 or 22 Sept (TBC)

Action points to agree (A), including “must-haves” (MH) and “aspirations” (ASP)		
A	Letter to Meldreth Parish Council expressing concerns about dangerous traffic	Done
A	Letter to Shepreth Parish Council expressing concerns about a valuable village amenity being empty because of high car park charges	Done
A	Post minutes on Parish Council notice boards not possible – takes up too much space. Therefore posting on village websites.	Alternative solution done
A	Request the Neighbourhood Police Panel to keep an eye out for illegal parking in the area between the Station entrance at Meldreth and the first chicane in High Street.	Done
A	Create a link from village websites to new website.	Done
A	Delay repay scheme on FCC website. Members to publicise more through posters in the villages and parish magazines.	Done
A	Shepreth Wildlife Park to maintain a list of those using Shepreth Station.	RW?
MH	Drop the car park charge to £1 a day.	
MH	Clear and accessible information about fares. Better communication with all schools and colleges.	
MH	Ramps on southbound platform on Meldreth Station.	
ASP	Drop fares for young people	
ASP	Use Young Person’s Railcard in non-commuting direction before 10.00	
ASP	Free parking in the car parks	
ASP	Better provision for bikes on trains and cycle racks	
ASP	To improve timetables	