

**Meldreth, Shepreth & Foxton Rail User Group Quarterly Meeting  
22 June 2011, 19.30– 21.00  
Meldreth Manor School**

**Draft Minutes**

**Attendees/Station:**

**Apologies:**

Susan van de Ven	SV
Roger Gale (Meldreth Manor)	RG
Tim Stone	TS
Richard Marchant (FCC)	RM
Peter Wakefield (Railfuture)	PW
John Evans	
Jane Eggleton	
Jim Eggleton	
Sue Hanson	
Geoff Barnes	
Steve Hawkins	

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies</b> SV welcomed all attendees. No apologies were received.	<b>Actions</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ticket machine at Foxton to be replaced soon, to only open at the final stage for payment, in an attempt to prevent vandalism. (Item 5)</li> <li>• FCC said Network Rail (NR) were monitoring the level crossing at Foxton. SV said the short amount of time before the barrier came down was reported by users to be real problem. (Item 5)</li> <li>• Extended discussion about car parking charges at Meldreth station. RM conceded that the car park was not making money and indicated he was happy to forward an email to David Burns, head of car parks at FCC. Questions were raised as to whether some aspects of station maintenance (eg litter picking) were included in the car parking contract. (Item 7.2)</li> <li>• SV said there had been no response from FCC on expanded parking for bicycles at Meldreth. RM would pursue this. A proposal had been received from one commuter for cycle parking facilities on the southbound side of the station. SV explained that there were issues over land ownership on the Melbourn side of the station and said she would take this up with the landowner. Possibility raised that cycle parking could be included in a joint proposal with a ramp for disabled rail users. (Item 7.4)</li> <li>• Extended discussion over disabled and pushchair access to the southbound platform. RG said it was wholly unreasonable to expect these passengers to cross the bridge and then return and there was discussion over whether there could be a ticket machine on this side of the station. It was agreed to investigate whether the ticket machine could be moved to the</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SV/RM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RM/SV</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RM</b></p>

southbound platform, since there was already a ticket office, staffed during morning peak hours, on the northbound platform. (Item 7.8)

- It was agreed to add “Improved access for all rail users to the southbound platform” as a ‘must have’ (MH) objective for the group. (Item 7.8)
- SV questioned why the level crossing lights went to red at Foxton so quickly – in around 1.5 seconds – leaving some drivers unable to react in time. (Item 7.9)
- The low volume of the PA system at Shepreth was raised as an issue.
- RM said RUG posters would be restored at Meldreth station and that new permanent boards were being installed in the longer term. (Item 7.11)
- It was reported that new pedestrian gates at Foxton were being installed in the week of the meeting. Concern was voiced that Network Rail had promised an escort for children while the gates were being replaced, but that this had not been provided. (Item 7.B.1)

**3. Updates on rail campaign points:**

- a. Bikes on trains – new restrictions on 8.10 from Meldreth to Cambridge. SV reported that FCC’s original plan to restrict full size bicycles on four northbound trains had been reduced to one. Warnings had been issued, rather than immediate penalties. PW reported on the bike parking situation at Cambridge station, where there were 2,000 spaces for 3,000 bikes, and said limited provision there was deterring rail users from taking bikes on train services.
- b. New ticket machines – now installed at all three stations. **RM**  
One member said that the Meldreth machine would not allow ticket purchases to Old Street. RM said he would investigate this. It was not clear if individual station machines could have settings changed, or if this could only be done centrally.
- c. Pedestrian gates, Foxton station. Discussed under matters arising.
- d. Local Transport Plan and Sustainable Transport Fund bid. SV reported that the County Council had included the RUG and its aspirations for station adoption and Community Rail Partnership in the LTP and the STF.
- e. Community Transport links to stations: to be explored – work still to do.

**4. Any new issues to report from the three stations:**

- a. Meldreth: the entrance to the station car park was being re-surfaced. A hedge was jutting out. It was not possible to get push-chairs through the kissing gate at the High Street access to the station and platforms.

**5. Birthday plans**

Plans for the celebrations of the stations’ anniversaries were

detailed separately in an annex to the agenda.

SV reported that there had been a lack of take-up to sponsor the garden at Foxton. Most discussion was about the provision at this station and the limited location options there and upkeep issues. Was it possible that Network Rail staff visiting the station could water the plants?

SV said Tesco in Royston had offered to provide assistance to the project, and there was discussion about what role they might play.

**Painting history of the station on wall – possible project for the future.**

**6. Bank account**

It was decided that it was not necessary to open a bank account.

- 7** Dates of future meetings:  
September 21, Foxton Village Hall  
December 14, Shepreth Village Hall  
March 14, Meldreth Manor School

These were noted. SV asked if it was possible to hold the next AGM in March at Meldreth Manor and **RG agreed.**

<p><b>Action points to agree (A), including “must-haves” (MH) and “aspirations” (ASP)</b></p> <p><b>A</b> Shepreth Wildlife Park to maintain a list of those using Shepreth Station.</p> <p><b>MH</b> Free parking in the station car parks</p> <p><b>MH</b> Clear and accessible information about fares. Better communication with all schools and colleges. MH: Improvements to new National Rail local information posters at all three stations MH: New gates at both pedestrian crossings at Foxton MH: Improved monitoring and enforcement of level crossing abuses at Foxton</p> <p><b>MH</b> Disabled access ramp on southbound platform on Meldreth. Improved access for all rail users to the southbound platform at Meldreth.</p> <p><b>MH</b> Better provision for bikes on trains and more cycle racks at all three stations</p> <p><b>MH</b> Maintain the 50% Student Connect discount</p> <p><b>ASP</b> Use Young Person’s Railcard in non-commuting direction before 10.00</p> <p><b>ASP</b> Take steps toward Station Adoption at all three stations</p> <p><b>ASP</b> Consider prospects of a Community Rail Partnership encompassing the three stations</p> <p><b>ASP</b> Improvements on timetables</p>	<p><b>RW</b></p>
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<b>Action points achieved so far</b>		
<b>A</b>	Letter to Meldreth Parish Council expressing concerns about dangerous traffic	<b>Done</b>
<b>A</b>	Letter to Shepreth Parish Council expressing concerns about a valuable village amenity being empty because of high car park charges	<b>Done</b>
<b>A</b>	Post minutes on Parish Council notice boards	<b>Done</b>
<b>A</b>	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.	<b>Done</b>
<b>A</b>	Create a link from village websites to new RUG website.	<b>Done</b>
<b>A</b>	Delay repay scheme on FCC website. Members to publicise more through posters in the villages and parish magazines.	<b>Done</b>
<b>A</b>	Cycle racks at Foxton Station	<b>Done</b>