

Meldreth, Shepreth & Foxton Rail User Group Quarterly Meeting
21 September 2011, 19.30– 21.30
Foxton Village Hall

Draft Minutes

Attendees/Station:

Apologies:

Cllr Susan van de Ven (Meldreth)	SV	None
Chair		
Roger Gale (Meldreth Manor School)	RG	
Keith Jipps (FCC)	KJ	
Julie Allan (FCC)	JA	
Peter Wakefield (Railfuture)	PW	
John Evans (Meldreth)	JEv	
Jane Eggington (Meldreth)	JEg	
Rebecca Willers (Shepreth Wildlife Park)	RW	
David Wherrell (RCDT)	DW	
Sue Hanson (Meldreth)	SH	
Geoff Barnes (Foxton Parish Council)	GB	
Rachael McIntyre (Foxton)	RM	
Steve Hawkins (Meldreth)	SH	
Cllr Ian Bates (Cambridgeshire County Council)	IB	
Jeremy Smith (Cambridgeshire County Council)	JS	
Mark Wyatt	MW	

1.	Welcome and apologies SV welcomed all attendees. No apologies were received.	Actions
2.	Minutes of previous meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RW reported that the vast majority of visitors to Shepreth Wildlife Park were using the train. • JEv asked if enforcement action was being taken by FCC to police the ban on unfolded bikes on the morning service arriving in Cambridge at 0829. (Item 3a) • SV reported on the folding bike rental scheme now in operation in Ely and raised the possibility of it being extended to the villages. (Item 3a) • FCC was asked about over-crowding on peak morning services into Cambridge. KJ said trains could not be lengthened due to short platforms at the village stations and the fact that carriages from 8 and 12 carriage trains could not be 'locked off'. Additional trains were not anticipated until 2015. • RG asked about risk assessments by FCC for trains carrying significant numbers of bicycles. SV suggested a discussion on the folding bike issue between Cambridgeshire County Council and FCC. JS raised the issue of cycle hubs at other stations. (Item 3a) 	
3.	Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 9th birthday celebrations: SV said she was overwhelmed by the public response in the villages and also reported on the positive letter to the Daily Telegraph about Meldreth station and David Piggott. RG said the event had highlighted access issues at Meldreth. SV 	

congratulated the Meldreth School Gardening Club on being nominated for its work on the Meldreth station flower and veg garden. SV said that the RUG poster at Meldreth station had been covered up. KJ said this would not happen again. .

KJ

- Foxton level crossing gates: SV reported on continuing problems. New gates had been installed in June but these were not working and had had to be locked. There was no safe way for pedestrians to cross the line while they were being repaired. The promise of an escort for children across the line had not been delivered on. There was a brief debate on the relative merits of the old and new gates. SV reported on an instance of a child being trapped on the 'wrong' side of closing gates and having to climb over them. KJ said Network Rail were engaging with the possibility in the medium term of a road bridge across the line at Foxton but this would have to be DDA compliant. IB suggested joint action by FCC, Cambridgeshire County Council and local councillors to pursue the issue with Network Rail.
- Car parking charges at Meldreth: it was reported that there was continuing rail-related parking outside the official station car park, in Tavern Yard, Elin Way and Whitecroft Road. SV raised the possibility of double yellow lines but said this was a very slow process. KJ admitted that parking receipts were not at a sufficient level to repay the investment by FCC in making improvements at Meldreth's car park. SV detailed the background to the issue and said David Burns at FCC would not budge on the issue, even though he had not made a convincing case for introducing charges. KJ said the station had been improved, charges were the lowest at any FCC station and charges would not rise in January. JE questioned if the car park was as bad as being painted by FCC prior to the changes. SV said local people were making a significant (and not short term) commitment to make the station better and more utilised and that it was not unreasonable to hope for some gesture of goodwill on this issue by FCC. KJ said he would take the issue away and seek some further evaluation of costs and benefits. SV thanked FCC for this.
- Student fares: SV praised FCC for their discounts for students in Cambridgeshire, which had made rail cheaper than the previously subsidised bus alternative. KJ reported that it was possible to get free travel on FCC when travelling to job interviews arranged by Jobcentre Plus. SV said she would highlight this on future RUG posters to increase awareness.
- Franchise renewal has been brought forward to 2013 and will run for approx five years.
- Wormery operating instructions have been received for two wormeries at Meldreth and Shepreth station school gardens; more wormeries to be given to all participating schools (Meldreth, Barrington, Foxton). Much excitement all round concerning wormeries.
- Community transport links to station: Royston and District Community Transport helping to canvass local interest. Possible shopping trip to Stevenage. Discussion with County Council regarding funding.

- 4. **Station adoption and Community Rail Partnership progress:**
 Next step unclear, but the potential benefits are clear.
 Meeting between RUG and FCC to pursue
- 5. **Disabled access at Meldreth:**
 Match-funding, land issues very challenging.
 Ticket vending machine placement – input expected from Richard Marchant. Proposal to move TVM to southbound platform, leaving permit to travel machine northbound. Local residents to be canvassed via parish magazines and newsletters.
- 6. **East/West Consortium Update:**
 Deferred due to time constraints
- 7 **Any other business:**
 October 5 and 9 for replanting platform garden tubs

<p>A</p> <p>MH</p> <p>MH</p> <p>MH</p> <p>MH</p>	<p>Action points to agree (A), including “must-haves” (MH) and “aspirations” (ASP)</p> <p>Shepreth Wildlife Park to maintain a list of those using Shepreth Station.</p> <p>Free parking in the station car parks</p> <p>Clear and accessible information about fares. Better communication with all schools and colleges.</p> <p>MH: Improvements to new National Rail local information posters at all three stations</p> <p>MH: New gates at both pedestrian crossings at Foxton</p> <p>MH: Improved monitoring and enforcement of level crossing abuses at Foxton</p> <p>Disabled access ramp on southbound platform on Meldreth. Improved access for all rail users to the southbound platform at Meldreth.</p> <p>Better provision for bikes on trains and more cycle racks at all three stations</p>	<p>RW</p>
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MH	Maintain the 50% Student Connect discount	
ASP	Use Young Person's Railcard in non-commuting direction before 10.00	
ASP	Take steps toward Station Adoption at all three stations	
ASP	Consider prospects of a Community Rail Partnership encompassing the three stations	
ASP	Improvements on timetables	

	Action points achieved so far	
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	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 RUG website.	Done
A	Delay repay scheme on FCC website. Members to publicise more through posters in the villages and parish magazines.	Done
A	Cycle racks at Foxtan Station	Done