

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group Meeting

10<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Elin Way Community Rooms, Meldreth

## 1. Welcome and apologies

Welcome from Susan at 19:37 and thanks to Sue for the refreshments!

### Attending

### Apologies

## 2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting (24<sup>th</sup> September 2014) were agreed.

## 3. Great Northern Train Service issues

### a) Consultation on December 2015 timetable

Link will be put on website.

### b) King's Cross – Meldreth service: train splitting announcements

Update from Karen Gregson – boards at KC are operated by NR. GTR are working with management at King's Cross. Staff at KC are aware. Drivers have been asked to make additional announcements.

Boards at Royston – train goes on in two parts – one fast and one stopping. Software at the moment cannot deal with this at present because one train comes in so one train on system. Software being looked into at present.

### c) Cycles on trains

Overview from Karen –GTR wishes to encourage use of cycles for environmental reasons. But the volume of cycles does cause problems for staff and passengers alike.

Restrictions on certain trains have been pushing more cycles onto other trains.

Restriction has been taken off one train (check which one) and at the moment the cycles have been spread over more trains.

Ian Stuart (from Royston):

Expressed opinions, predominantly based around cycles on trains being a safety issue.

Discussion about responsible behaviour of cyclists on trains – some people feeling they behave helpfully, others not so sure.

RUG promotes sustainable transport, including cycles as well as trains.

Promote use of folding cycles, but these are expensive.

Promote purchase of second hand bikes, and to have a cycle at both ends.

### d) Uncertainty over frequency of stopping service post ...

At stakeholder meeting last week, it was thought that off-peak service will be hourly.

Stopping trains likely to be the ones that go through to Cambridge Science Park station.

Peak half hourly services to and from Cambridge.

*Paul to email me details...*

We will need to make the case if we want to see half hourly stopping services all day.

Noted that there are sizeable planning applications in for Melbourn and Foxton / Barrington – this could strengthen the case.

e) Can people sit in first class if train is overcrowded?

In situations of overcrowding, first class can be declassified so that it can be used by others. An announcement should be made.

#### 4. Station issues

a) Foxton: waiting shelter on Cambridge platform

If you sit on the bench in the rain you still get wet...

Karen reports – from January, there are new standards coming in about station facilities so this will mean there will be improvements at some of our station... Foxton – waiting room redevelopment, and shelter on other side. Meldreth – shelter on Cambridge bound platform (no shelter when station building closed).

b) Shepreth

Plans out to tender at the moment. Work should start in the New Year. Once the ramp is built, GTR will review the car park layout and location of bike racks. RUG to be consulted on these plans.

New bike rack being used, but possible abandoned bike racks on the old rack.

NR have a detailed plan to replant the poppy garden at Shepreth. NR working with ecology officer, meeting on site in January, to begin work in March. Will take 18 months to return it to the state before it was destroyed.

Level crossing upgrades – NR intention to put full barriers in at both station and Meldreth Road. Doubt by local people that the one in Meldreth Road does not actually need this because there is not currently an issue with risk taking (in contrast to major issue with risk taking at station barriers) – a full barrier would increase wait times.

Report that trains may be speeding through our stations and possible reports of barriers not being fully down before train goes through... Karen and Andy to look into this, but any reports of this need to be properly detailed in future.

c) Meldreth

Thanks to Sue for organising the tree at Meldreth Christmas Tree festival.

Station gardeners at Meldreth are going to put up a Christmas tree in the station building.

Mike Sharman (passed away a few months ago) had a collection of historical items, including the original “Meldreth and Melbourn station” sign. Possibility of us having loan of it to put up in waiting room at Meldreth station. Andy to be put in touch with relevant person to discuss possibility of this.

#### 5. Community Rail Partnership

- a) Larry Hayman interested at last meeting in giving funding to Foxton, Meldreth, Melbourn and Fowlmere youth club (runs in Melbourn). Organisation called Groundwork now involved in running Youth Club, and has experience of working with CRP's further down the line.

Groundwork came to CRP meeting – brought proposal for 10 week project in the Spring for the Youth Club to look into accessibility issues at Meldreth. Larry is looking into getting funding for this at the moment.

Karen – on issue of graffiti at Foxton – in other places, youth clubs have been involved in painting murals in/near stations. Once waiting room has been revamped, youth club could also be involved in painting mural – less likely to graffiti over own art work! Karen will liaise with Larry over this.

b) Station gardens

Foxton covered by Village gardens association. Larry to make available some GTR funding for plants etc at Shepreth and Meldreth.

**6. Great Northern Management Contract**

50% student discount was negotiated directly with FCC. This needed to be reapproved, but this has happened more quickly than was expected – now approved to continue until 2016. RUG to ask Hills Road Sixth Form College to promote use of train, rather than starting to drive once passed test!

Peter Wakefield reports a story of Sixth Form college in Norfolk where subsidised travel for sixth form students has disappeared, causing problems for families.

Parking charges – thanks for our excellent parking charge situations. However, Karen reports some abuse of the free parking at Shepreth by the station businesses.

**7. Any other urgent business**

a) Steps at Meldreth – excellent that steps at Meldreth are gritted, but request that edges be repainted white to make safer in dark / poor weather.

b) Any news on Foxton level crossing situation...

Ball in Network Rail's court at the moment... but has gone a bit quiet!

c) Bus passes on trains

Larry Hayman looking into whether bus passes can be accepted for discounted travel.

**8. Date of next meeting: AGM, 11<sup>th</sup> March, Melbourn Hub.**