

**Meldreth, Shepreth & Foxtton Rail User Group AGM
8 March 2011, 19.30– 21.30
Melbourn Village College Lecture Room
The Moor, Melbourn SG8 6EF**

Draft Minutes

Attendees/Station:

Susan van de Ven
 Laura Mungovan
 Robin Tunnah

Jane Eggleton
 Jim Eggleton
 Sue Hanson
 Roger Gale (Meldreth Manor)
 Graham Huges (CCC)
 Glenn Edge (CCC)
 Robert Stripe (FLUA)
 Julie Allan (FCC)
 Jayne Ambrose (BTP)
 Clare List (Cambs Police)
 David Wherrell (Royston and District
 Community Transport)
 Geoff Barnes (Foxtton Parish Council)
 Andrew Fowler
 Steve Hawkins (Meldreth Parish
 Council)
 Sandra Webb
 David Grech
 Bruce Huett
 John Henderson (Railfuture)
 Beatrice Fisher

Apologies:

SV Passenger Focus
 National Express
 South Cambs Community
 Transport
 Christine Adams
 Simon Bedlow
 Mike Davey (CCC)
 John Evans
 Peter Wakefiled (Railfuture)

JA

1.	Welcome and apologies	Actions
	SV welcomed all attendees, including representatives from First Capital Connect (FCC), Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), British Transport Police (BTP), Fen Line Users' Association (FLUA), Meldreth Manor (MM).	
2.	Election of officers: chairman, secretary, treasurer	
	Susan van de Ven - Chairman Bruce Huett – auditor for cash Sue Hanson – Treasurer [A new secretary is needed]	
3.	Finances	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under umbrella of Railfuture • Min £1 subscription charge per household collected. • Costs – Parish Councils have met the costs of room hire. 	

Meldreth Manor and Shepreth Wildlife Park have offered free room hire for future meetings	
4.	Minutes of previous meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SV commented that the RUG's notice board in Meldreth was covered by National Rail information
5.	Other brief updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can't buy tickets from Foxtton to Shepreth Member commented that screens in Foxtton and Meldreth hadn't yet been replaced. Julie Allan from FCC confirmed that an order has been placed and their arrival is imminent. Shepreth passenger was fined on the train after being unable to buy a ticket from the machine, even though this was a known issue at this station. Sometimes the machine only accepts cards, and passengers can't buy tickets if they don't have a credit card to pay with. Julie from FCC offered to look into this individual case. SV asked Julie if passengers could get clear information about the functionality of machines in Foxtton and Shepreth and publish clearer information about penalties SV reminded passengers to give themselves enough time to purchase tickets before the barriers come down Foxtton machine slot – CCTV captured youths trying to jam the machine
6.	Annual Report
	[Attached]
7.	Campaigning issues
7.1	<i>Nuisance and dangerous parking around stations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTP are aware of these issues and agree these are a real headache
7.2	<i>Parking charges</i> SV made the following points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FCC leaflet mentions that the off-peak tariff in Meldreth is staying the same – this is incorrect. SV worked with FCC to make a temporary reduction of £1 in Meldreth for 3 months, which resulted in no change of behaviour (car park still poorly used). Nevertheless, SV expressed her gratitude for the goodwill gesture. The Group were disappointed with the rise back to £3 of the car park price in Meldreth, because they weren't told about it, despite previous good communication with FCC. The Group had even published a poster to say thank you just before the unannounced price rise. FCC confirmed that there is a new position within the company dealing with communications: Stakeholder Manager. Although we have 3 vibrant small stations, this parking problem is an impediment to rail use, particularly since bus services are being reduced. How much does it cost to monitor/police the car parks?

Julie Allan

	<p>Passenger Focus has seen the car parks and doesn't feel it is appropriate to charge parking fees. SV wanted to reinforce that there is no obvious business case. In answer to FCC's claims that charges are necessary to keep the car parks safe, they were absolutely fine when they were free.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCC mentioned that there is no charge for disabled parking at stations (and that standard spaces could be used without penalty if the disabled space is occupied). Julie will double check policy. 	Julie Allan
7.3	<p><i>Ticket machine visibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See item 5 above 	
7.4	<p><i>Cycle parking</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCC to investigate whether high capacity cycle parking is to be made available in Meldreth. To discuss further with SV. 	SV/FCC
7.5	<p><i>Post-16 student fares</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 50% reduction in the adult fare for students attending further education in Cambs has made a huge difference to families. This offer has now been extended to the whole county, and National Express has extended this to the whole network. SV expressed her gratitude for this and hopes the offer continues. 	
7.6	<p><i>Extra services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passengers very pleased with extra services introduced. One passenger asked whether there will be further extra services as she noticed a hugh number of passengers still standing or sitting in the aisles. FCC confirmed that they've added nearly 7000 seats across the routes in the last 2 years. Extra rolling stock is needed, and platform lengths are being increased. 	
7.7	<p><i>Information screens</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCC aware when problems occur 	
7.8	<p><i>Disabled ramp, Meldreth southbound platform</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCC have visited the station and made cost estimations. SV confirmed the Group is trying to find match funding under the Access for All Scheme. Not just disabled people, people with pushchairs and luggage also find it difficult to cross over the bridge People can't buy a ticket because they can't cross over. Has FCC considered adding a new ticket machine? 	
7.9	<p><i>ASB incidents at stations</i></p> <p>BTP reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Feb 10, Foxton – 3 vehicles went through barriers 26 Mar 10, Foxton – vehicles seen swerving round barriers 12 Dec 10, Meldreth – youths playing "chicken" on the rail line 	

Cambridge Constabulary reported that in 2010:

- 15 crimes committed at Meldreth station
- 3 crimes committed at Shepreth station
- 64 crimes committed at Foxton station. All these crimes involved going through the red lights and barriers at the crossing. All involved are being prosecuted. Foxton is the second most abused crossing in the eastern area (Lakenheath is the worst).

Foxton Parish Council wanted to thank both forces for their support with these issues. Also mentioned that the Cemex rail line is expected to be in use again soon.

7.10 *Support of parish councils and local groups*

- SV thanked the parish councils and Meldreth Manor School for their support of the RUG.

7.11 *Communication with rail industry*

- Julie to find out who SV can contact in National Rail, who have covered RUG posters in Meldreth with incomplete/incorrect posters.

Julie Allan

7B.1 *Mechanical failure of pedestrian gates, Foxton station*

- New safety action plan: Network Rail will have someone available to padlock gates
- BTP, County Highways and SV to discuss plans to talk to schools

7B.2 *Station adoptions and Community Rail Partnership*

- SV met with RailFuture about the statistics for their stations who were adopted
- Julie will look into Station adoption stage 1 (safety training, planting, improving interface with schools, partnership. Shepreth Wildlife Park are very keen to get involved (any other local businesses?)
- Community transport schemes – help people get to their destination, including train stations. They're becoming more important now that bus services are being cut. Available to anyone age 16+

5. Date of next meeting

Meldreth Manor School, June 22, 7:30

Action points to agree (A), including “must-haves” (MH) and “aspirations” (ASP)		
A	Shepreth Wildlife Park to maintain a list of those using Shepreth Station.	RW
MH	Free parking in the station car parks	
MH	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	
MH	Disabled access ramp on southbound platform on Meldreth.	
MH	Better provision for bikes on trains and more cycle racks at all three stations	
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 Foxton Station	Done