

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxtton Rail User Group
December 12 2012
Foxtton Village Hall
Minutes

I counted 15 people.

SVD said: "There are several new people here tonight." (Ian Crowson, Ian Stuart, Janet Cottenden, David Kendrick)

I didn't hear any apologies. Whoops: Christine Adams, Jane and Jim Eggleton, FCC.

I assume FCC apologised.

(A couple of commuters asked me to ask FCC about announcements but I obviously couldn't.)

(Item 8 to Item 1)

Peter Wakefield presented Railfuture's first national awards for rail user group. The awards were announced on November 3, Birmingham, and Peter collected them for us.

1: Best New Group

2: Gold award for best website: Paul Hollinghurst

3: Best campaigner of the year (partly due to work on Foxtton level crossing): Susan van de Ven

:SVD: "We forgot to do approving minutes and matters arising and all that." Waved through.

Foxtton Level Crossing

Andy Bottom (Network Rail General Manager)

New gates

"It's quite pleasing to see the gates have been quite reliable over the last few days, weeks, months. (I'm touching wood!)

"We've not had any faults for the last three weeks that I'm aware of."

He said the only snag was an "earth fault" -

"We have done the upgrade now. We have just got to find this earth fault. The electronic gates are far, far better."

A document detailing the mechanics of the level crossing has been written by Paul Hollinghurst and approved by Network Rail, and is posted on the MSFRUG website. Andy Bottom said it is so good that he could make use of it in educating train drivers.

Feasibility Study re closing Foxtton Level Crossing:

Bottom:

"A study for a by-pass basically - bridge, underpass.

"A proper feasibility study over the next four or five months...

"I cannot be any more positive. We are looking to try and make sure we do something."

NR asked and SvdV agreed that we would try and get the Melbourn Village College media students involved in rail safety education.

Bottom also said they'd adjusted a "warbler alarm" at Shepreth which was causing distress due to high pitch.

This coming year, the MSFRUG plans to tackle disabled access at Meldreth, due to the (hoped for) change of franchise which will offer new franchisees the chance to make investments in station infrastructure. Discussion on inviting franchise bidders to meet the RUG and outline what they would do to address access limitations at Meldreth.

Paul Hollinghurst suggested that an access audit for all three stations could be done.

A new bench has been placed at Meldreth's Cambridge-bound platform but we are still waiting for a bench replacement at Shepreth.

Ian Stuart had been monitoring cycles on trains and in particular the 8:06 from Meldreth which has a cycle restriction. There was concern about the occasional disregard for the restriction though said things had been better since half-term. A debate took place on the inappropriateness of cycles blocking the exits on crowded trains, but also the importance of encouraging sustainable transport and the need that some train passengers have for their cycles at the end of their train journeys.

The meeting closed at 9:30.