

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership

Meeting at Teacake, Shepreth

12th November 2014, 10:30AM

Apologies: Sallie Bates (Network Rail), Marcus Jones (Network Rail), Claire Gibbons (SCDC community transport), Janet Cottenden (Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group).

Attending: Susan van de Ven (County Councillor and Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group), Natasha Hinks (Cambridgeshire County Council), Diana Hedley (Groundwork), Larry Heyman and Andy Hart (Govia Thameslink Railway), Philippa Hart (District Councillor).

1. Minutes from previous meeting. Agreed.
2. Brief updates from previous meeting:
 1. DDA compliant ramp for Shepreth Station. Marcus reported by email that the design has now been agreed and should be seeing action shortly.
 2. The Shepreth Station poppy garden destruction is being rectified by Network Rail in consultation with Rob Mungovan, to start in spring 2015. It is estimated that the work to put the garden back as it was will take 18 months. Autumn tidy-ups and winter planting at both Meldreth and Shepreth stations has taken place. A grant from the Foxton Gardens Association covers costs at Foxton, but volunteers and the MSFRUG pay for plants at Meldreth and Shepreth. A Govia grant was discussed for Meldreth and Shepreth, to be arranged by Larry.
 3. Travel for Work. Teacake, The Plough Shepreth, Shepreth Wildlife Park, Maycroft Care Home are all signed up. TTP and Astra Zenica on Melbourn Science Park will be approached. The A10 cycling campaign is being very active in supporting this and a grant from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund for Travel for Cambridgeshire in our area kicks in next spring. First Capital Connect supported this scheme, and Govia is strongly encouraged to join up. It costs nothing, but sends a strong message, could demonstrate joined up thinking about sustainable travel and encourage modal shift in the ways people travel to work. Govia would be a prestige signee.
 4. 30% student discount scheme: the Govia contract is unusual in that it is a management contract with the Department for Transport (DfT). This means that it does not make any money out of train fares, the income from which goes straight to the DfT. DfT pays Govia to run the company, paying bonuses for good time-keeping, ticketed travel, etc, and imposing penalties for late running trains, ticketless travel etc. This means the student discount needs to be re-negotiated but with the DfT. It is secure until 31/12/14. The commercial team from Govia is liaising with the DfT and may need support from MSFCRP.
 5. Transport for London is with DfT, and involved in restructuring the train ticket fare rise.
 6. NB There will be major works in the line between Finsbury Park and KX over the Christmas period with a very limited service between Christmas and NY. These are part of the Thameslink and St Pancras updates.
 7. Honouring concessionary bus fares. This happens in Bedford and Hertfordshire for in-county travel. This is a balancing exercise between satisfying demand and encouraging people onto the train at off peak times. While it fills up trains, can mean the death knell of the bus service. This is less of a problem where the bus and train service is run by the same operator which is not the case here. Susan's query to Roy Cooper a year ago was to be relayed to DfT from FCC, but was never resolved. Larry to investigate.
 8. Progressing disabled access to Meldreth Station. For the time being this is centred upon exploring the construction of a DDA compliant ramp on the Melbourn side which would also require a DDA a compliant path across the field to Melbourn. This will require the landowner to agree to the works taking place. Groundwork has been involved in working with Community Rail Partnerships in the St Albans and Watford area and is looking to expanding their work in Cambridgeshire via Melbourn

Area Youth Development (MAYD) Youth Club where they are now the provider. Susan and Diana have been in discussion to see how young people can take part in promoting disabled access at Meldreth Station under the auspices of our CRP. Diana presented a Groundwork proposal for a 'Disability Awareness Film Project', for a ten-week course to run in spring 2015. There are obvious synergies to be tapped: Susan explained how the youth club has the capacity to respond to anti-social and dangerous behaviours by certain young people often centring upon the local railway stations. Larry explained that FCC has been involved in a programme with the Price's Trust which has helped 70 young people with challenging behaviours and/or difficult family backgrounds to assist them to improve their lives. Govia is continuing and extending this programme. Larry indicated that Govia would be very supportive of the Groundwork proposal for Melbourn Youth Club to contribute to the disabled access station campaign. Accessibility to Meldreth Station figures in the County Council's Transport Strategy and would come back with response on funding. Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group to publicise the disabled transport coverage offer from Govia (called the "Assisted Travel Service") which is to encourage people to travel to the nearest disabled access station (Royston) from whence they will be provided with a free taxi by Govia to their home. Susan and Diana to convey the Groundwork proposal to MAYD.

Meeting closed at 12:00.

Next meeting 29 January 3:15 PM, Shepreth Teacake or Shepreth Plough, to be confirmed.