

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership

29 January 2015, 3:15-5:00

Shepreth Plough

High Street, Shepreth

Present: Peter Wakefield (MSF RUG and Railfuture), Natasha Hinks (Cambs County Council), Clare Gibbons (South Cambs District Council), Andy Hart (Great Northern), Sallie Bates (Network Rail), Marcus Jones (Network Rail), Susan van de Ven (Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group and Cambs CC Councillor).

Apologies: Larry Heyman (Great Northern), Philippa Hart (South Cambs DC Councillor), Janet Cottenden (MSF RUG), Paul Hollinghurst (MSF RUG and Railfuture), Groundwork Hertfordshire.

1. Ramp, Shepreth: The tender process is underway, the design having been agreed following slight alteration to the new stairs, to meet DDA requirements. Construction should be fairly quick, with final bit needing to take place at night when trains not running, so as to comply with station access requirements. The CRP expressed the hope that this project will be completed by April and Easter holidays. **Action: Marcus and Sally**
2. Poppy Garden, Shepreth: Marcus and Susan met with Rob Mungovan, South Cambs Ecology Officer, earlier in the day and detailed instructions were laid out for NR groundwork required over the coming weeks. **Action: Marcus and Sally**
3. Level Crossings, Shepreth: NR happy to keep an open mind on Meldreth Road crossing where local people feel that a full barrier crossing could actually create new problems. There is no known risk taking issue at this crossing, and it works well, keeping traffic moving. The system is respected by users. Public consultation would be required for any changes. Action: Susan to keep communication channel open with local residents
4. Shepreth Station crossing is felt to be inherently dangerous on account of half-barriers allowing easy transgression when trains are approaching. Full support for change to full barriers.
5. Shepreth ticket machine is being messed about with on a regular basis, necessitating three visits weekly by GTR Revenue Protection for machine maintenance.
6. Travel for Cambridgeshire take-up proceeding well with increasing numbers of local businesses signing up, most notably Astra Zenica. A Local Sustainable Transport Fund grant kicking in from April will entail focused work on TfC take-up.
7. Science Park Station: from 2018 our stopping service will terminate at the new station, which should be widely communicated. Along a similar line, it was suggested that the MSFCRP should lobby energetically for a half-hourly service throughout the day. From 2018 Royston will have four trains an hour to Cambridge; Ely now has seven. **Action: Peter, Susan**
8. Foxton Level Crossing: Marcus asked please to pursue where things are with NR, as the conversation appears to have gone quiet. **Action: Marcus**
9. If Foxton LC is closed and station redeveloped with transport interchange facilities, there should be well-designed bus drop-off/pick-up space at station to facilitate multi-modal travel. Clare reported that S106 on the Hauxton Bayer Site development includes funding for Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) for a ten year period. There should be scope for exploring integrated ticketing options with Train Operating Company.

10. The times trains stop and pass through Letchworth and Royston in the Cambridge direction in the morning peak are recorded below, along with the gaps in minutes between each service, and the 'pathing allowances' (padding in the timetable to avoid the train conflicting with another service, which could easily be used instead for an additional station stop). Both Kings Lynn services could make an additional stop at either Letchworth or Royston to ease overcrowding on the current stopping services. (SEE APPENDIX 1)
11. Hills Road, Long Road Sixth Form Colleges and pro-active encouragement of use of public and sustainable transport: MSFRUG agreed that Susan and Andy should cultivate discussion with colleges. Now being arranged.
12. Bike Bus, Cambridge Station to Wimpole area: To help publicize. **Action: Clare to provide blurb for Susan to circulate locally.**
13. Honouring concessionary bus passes on trains: awaiting response from GTR team. **Action: Larry to respond.**
14. Groundwork proposal for Melbourn Youth Club project: Larry Heyman was going to come back with a response on this and we look forward to that. **Action: Larry to respond.**
15. Date of next meeting: **Susan to circulate**
16. Thank you to the Plough for hosting us. **Action: Andy Hart to meet up separately with The Plough to discuss possible collaboration on local sustainable transport incentives.**
17. Meeting closed at 17:10.

Appendix 1

- Times at Letchworth:
- **0728 stopper (0652 ex Kings Cross)**
- 11mins gap
- **0739 passes to Kings Lynn (0714 ex Kings Cross with 4 mins of pathing allowance at Royston)**
- 15mins gap
- **0754 stopper (0705 ex Kings Cross)**
- 18mins gap
- **0812 passes to Kings Lynn (0744 Ex Kings Cross with 3 mins of pathing allowance before Hitchin)**
- 16mins gap
- **0828 stopper (0752 ex Kings Cross)**

- Times at Royston:
- **0742 stopper (0652 ex Kings Cross)**
- 5mins
- **0747 passes to Kings Lynn (0714 ex Kings Cross: 4 mins of pathing allowance at Royston)**
- 20mins
- **0807 stopper (0705 ex Kings Cross)**
- 13mins
- **0820 passes to Kings Lynn (0744 Ex Kings Cross with 3 mins of pathing allowance before Hitchin)**
- 21mins
- **0841 stopper (0752 ex Kings Cross)**