

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group

17 September 2015, 7 for 7:30-9:00

Shepreth Village Hall

Station Road, Shepreth

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies:

Susan opened the meeting and welcomed back Andy Hart.

Also welcomed representatives from Melbourn, Meldreth and Foxton Parish Councils and three representatives from GTR (Sam - Station supervisor Shepreth and Foxton, Andy Hart , Karen Gregson - Group Station Manager).

Attending

Denise Permain, Linda Pearmain, Jane Eggleton, Laraine Pocknell, Rosemary Childerley, Geoff Barnes, Ron McCreery, Val Barrett, Jose Hales, Mark Wyatt, Peter Wakefield, Paul Hollinghurst, Beatrice Fisher, Sue Hanson, Steve Hawkins, Malcolm Howe, Janet Cottenden, Susan van de Ven, Karen Gregson, Andy Hart, Sam – (Station Manager)

Apologies

David Reed (Track Access Services at Shepreth), Marianne Bruggemann, Rebecca Willers, Marcus Jones (Network Rail), Robert Stripe

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 29th June were accepted.

3. Station updates

- Foxton: level crossing pedestrian safety
 - a) There have been three meetings in last month between Susan and Ron (Foxton Parish Council) and Network Rail. There was a public meeting with Heidi Allen MP, a meeting with Network Rail at Cambridgeshire County Council and a site meeting with Network Rail on potential short and medium term solutions (but no guarantees due to costing).
 - b) 13th August – meeting called because of pedestrian gates being out since March/May. A risk assessment for the crossing had been done in 2010 and it was felt that it has errors and omissions. Network Rail have been asked to do this again. They talked about possible measures suggested by members of the public (emergency pedestrian bridges, human escort, lowering speed limit). Network Rail went away to investigate... Risk assessment will be re-done but there is a lengthy protocol to follow. Emergency pedestrian bridge would cost approx. £600k each and there is nowhere really to put them. Also they would have to be very high to get over wires and there is also doubt that they would really be used. There was a unanimous consensus to concentrate instead on improving the safety of the crossings as they

are, e.g. extend the refuge areas and create better ground-level space for moving about.

- c) Network Rail, Susan and Ron met on site and agreed that on the Barrington side railings could be moved back to give more refuge space (fail safe in case gates fail). Network Rail are going to look into it.
 - d) In the shorter term a little bit of fencing could be removed to create a little bit more space for pedestrians.
 - e) Signs have been put up and the crossing has been being monitored more.
 - f) Our latest information is that the gates may be installed in November.
 - g) We still feel we need to push for these other measures to be put in place in case of the gates failing in the future.
 - h) The local MP attended first and second of these meetings which probably helped raise the profile.
 - i) Agreement from Network Rail (facilitated by GTR) that passengers boarding at Foxton are permitted to purchase their tickets on arrival in Cambridge to avoid having to cross the road to purchase a ticket.
 - j) Also, flashing amber lights should be being installed to provide a general warning about the crossing. This would be a temporary measure until the new pedestrian gates are installed.
 - k) Point raised whether it is local traffic or not that generally misuses the crossing. (British Transport Police may have this data)
 - l) Point raised about the length of time that the amber light is on before the red light comes on for the crossing.
 - m) Network Rail have promised to come to our next meeting on 2nd December. Questions for Network Rail should be submitted to Susan in advance so that Network Rail can come prepared with answers.
 - n) Network Rail were unable to attend this evening, but they have sent an update. They have done a 24 hour census which they will include in the risk assessment.
 - o) A new cycle path to be put along A10 on either side of Foxton station.
 - p) Also suggestion from Barrington resident to create a photo/video account of the routes around Foxton station. (This has not yet been done – apologies)
- Other Foxton issues:
 - a) Announcements at Foxton – loud speaker volume – GTR have looked into it and apparently local residents have complained about the volume so it will not be increased.
 - b) Andy – reports that the waiting room has been repainted but there has already been some vandalism.

- c) Suspected problems with social gatherings at both Foxton and Shepreth Stations over the weekends.
- Meldreth: station access progress report, historic station sign solution

Station Access – no progress to report. We have been looking into what could be done to have the path join up with a ramp from the London-bound platform. The ramp will not be funded until the path is improved, and this is on private land.

 - a) There are two remaining access issues at Meldreth – kissing gate on path to High Street and pedestrian access via road access to car park. These two would still improve safety at Meldreth. Karen will look into whether the car park sign can be relocated to improve pedestrian access to the car park.
 - b) White lines on bridge steps – purchase order just signed off and should be happening very shortly. Delay has occurred for a number of reasons.
 - c) Planning application in for land adjacent to Meldreth station. GTR to look into this from the point of view of the proximity to the station car park.
 - d) Also raised the issue of the increase in use of Meldreth station car park and growth of Meldreth.
 - e) Jose (Melbourn Parish Council) suggests that we take advantage of the planning application for housing adjacent to the station to support the cause for improving the footpath access to the station.
 - f) Historic station sign – Meldreth local History Group has been working with the British Queen pub to arrange having the sign on display there.
 - g) Action: fence on road bridge at Meldreth still not repaired – Susan to query Network Rail.
- Shepreth:

Vandalism / social disturbance issues at the station – see above.

Thanks to GTR for putting in a small ramp to avoid tripping at the shelter on Cambridge-bound platform.
- All stations: cycle parking, contactless ticketing
 - a) Update from Larry Heyman – quotation for additional cycle parking at Meldreth and Shepreth, but currently no funding. He is going to approach the County Council. Progress being made.
 - b) Foxton – Cambridge-side – hoping to get a line of cycle racks on “scrub land”. County Council involved to see if it can find land at top of Station Road to put a few more racks in.
 - c) Contactless ticketing – being introduced across the network. Initially being introduced up to Royston, then will be extended to our stations in conjunction with Cambridge station (different operator). Initially this will be for season tickets only, but eventually it should be extended to all tickets.

4. Train service issues

Latest on Thameslink services for 2018? Timetable is a work in progress at the moment.

5. Station gardens: water supply, autumn planting dates, Shepreth poppy garden arrangements

- a) Shepreth Sat 26th September
- b) Meldreth Wed 7th October
- c) Foxton – second half of October – date not set yet.
- d) The tubs themselves may need replacing soon – to be discussed at the gardening days.
- e) Shepreth Poppy Garden – Network Rail have apparently spent thousands of pounds erecting a fence around the wrong area. The original poppy garden needs a lot of work but it does not look like Network Rail can support us with it. Susan will liaise with the South Cambs District Council Ecology Officer on next steps. Local volunteers are keen to help put things right.
- f) Water supply – Susan to discuss with Andy at Meldreth gardening day.
- g) Grass at Meldreth – work in progress – Karen is dealing with it.

6. Community Rail Partnership (CRP) update

One of the main focusses at the moment is the Melbourn Area Youth Development MAYD Youth Club. Five parish councils (Melbourn, Meldreth, Foxton, Shepreth and Fowlmere) hire a community development charity called Groundwork to run a youth club. They had been hoping to do projects with GTR, primarily the mural project at Foxton. This seems to have stalled due to communication issues, but this will now be picked up and the project is expected to go ahead.

CRP hoping to give a push in the next little while to activities involving young people.

Liaison to continue between Susan, Jose, Karen, Andy and MAYD on the mural project for Foxton.

7. AOB

28th & 29th November – Christmas Tree Festival at Meldreth. Any ideas to Sue Hanson.

8. Date of next meeting

2nd December, 7 for 7:30, Elin Way Community Rooms, Meldreth.

Meeting closed at 21:00