

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group: Annual Report 2016

David Piggott retired from duties at Meldreth Station at the end of 2015. A large gathering of David's customers and friends from over the years gathered at the station for a celebration on December 12.

Waiting shelters: There has been no progress on shelters at Meldreth or Foxton. It was disappointing to learn that a local business had offered to significantly assist with funding new shelters on both platforms at Meldreth, but this was not able to be progressed by GTR, for reasons not understood. This matter will be taken up by the Community Rail Partnership.

Station cycle parking: It is disappointing that no progress can be reported.

Shepreth Station disabled ramp is completed. The station is safer and more accessible than before.

Meldreth Station disabled access: It is disappointing that no progress can be reported.

Half-hourly off-peak trains: Cambs County Council is helping to lobby for this service improvement.

Foxton Level Crossing

- Network Rail has formally shelved their feasibility study on the closure of the Foxton Level Crossing, citing financial restraints.
- All Foxton Level Crossing pedestrian gates were closed for a record period of time: March and May to December. Apart from glitches in the first week, no complaints have been received after it reopened in December.
- 'Medium-term' improvements to Foxton Level Crossing have been explored by contractors for Network Rail, including a temporary bridge over the station platforms – this was outlined in a presentation to Foxton Parish Council

Smart ticketing pedestals are now live on all platforms at all three stations.

The Shepreth Centenary Poppy Garden is now being restored by MSFRUG, following Network Rail's inadvertent herbiciding of the garden in August 2014. Network Rail attempted to put things right by replanting and fencing off the garden, but it worked on a different and incorrect site, leaving the herbicided site unaltered.

Meldreth Station now has a greatly improved water supply system thanks to the donation of water butts and their installation courtesy of local residents.

MSFRUG engaged with Mind in Cambridgeshire to support their Stop Suicide initiative.

The Community Rail Partnership aspect of our rail campaign has helped to spawn new community projects with local schools: a £4000 'community resilience' grant for a Melbourn Community Edible Gardening project will take place at Melbourn Primary School.

Also via the CRP, new strong relationships have been forged with local businesses. In particular, the Shepreth Plough and AstraZeneca have taken a very strong interest in supporting a culture change to sustainable travel. Both are taking practical steps to support use of local rail.