

Feedback on the July 15 timetable: Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group and Community Rail Partnership

The July 15 timetable appears to have offered some stability, which we welcome and hope continues.

Unfortunately, the timetable contains gaps that scupper a workable rail commuting routine. These need urgently to be rectified. All of these gaps mean a significantly poorer commuter service than pre-May 20. These gaps give credence to the perception that Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton are being sacrificed in the big picture context.

To and from Cambridge:

- The one-hour gap between 8.36 and 9.36 (Foxton) precludes tail-end morning commuting for students and workers. Please reinstate the 9:06 (Foxton), 9:08 (Shepreth) and 9:11 (Meldreth).
- Returning from Cambridge, the gap between 17.27 and 18.27 is unacceptably long as a peak time commuter service, affecting all the responsibilities that people will have at the home-end of their journeys. Please reinstate the 17:57.

To and from London:

- The one-hour gap between 6.38 and 7.36 (Foxton) means no train which currently arrives in London for around 8.30, for a 9am start. Reinststate 7:07 (Foxton) 7:09 (Shepreth) and 7:12 (Meldreth).
- For the return journey, the hour gaps between 17.21 and 18.21 and between 19.23 - 20.21 mean it is not possible to combine the fast service to Royston with a connection to Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton. Please reinstate 17:51 and 19:51 from London.
- Late return from London, M-F: unacceptably long gap between 22.21 and 23.51; ditto Sat 20:51-23:51. Reinststate 22:51 and 23:21. Apart from the fact that any cancellation of the 23:51 leaves passengers truly stranded, this is an unreasonable end-of-day gap.

Then, as a final step to restoring Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton as viable commuting stations, it is absolutely clear that one semi-fast in the morning peak and one in the evening peak are a basic necessity.

Finally, it should be noted that the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership into which significant investment has been made by GTR, South Cambridgeshire District Council, ACORP, and the parish councils of Meldreth, Shepreth, Foxton and Melbourn is unable to function and develop so long as these gaps exist within our rail services.

Susan van de Ven, Chair, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group and Community Rail Partnership

Sarah Grove, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership Project Officer

21 July 2018