



Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership First Annual General Meeting (Virtual)

Date: 22 September 2020, 2pm

Present:

Susan van de Ven (SvdV)	CRP Chair and CCC Cllr for Melbourn and Bassingbourn
Sarah Grove (SG)	CRP Project Officer
Tim Sparrow (TS)	Community Rail Network (formerly ACORP)
Paul Webster (PWe)	Community Rail Network (formerly ACORP)
Peter Wakefield (PWa)	Railfuture
Sarah Hatcher (SH)	CCC (officer)
Jay Clark (JC)	SCDC (officer)
Andrew Chillingsworth (AC)	GTR
Peter McDonald (PM)	CCC and SCDC Cllr for Duxford division
Roger James (RJ)	Meldreth Parish Council
Ruth White (RW)	Shepreth Parish Council
Peter Sutton (PS)	CIC Director

Item 1 **Welcome, introductions and apologies**

This was the first AGM since formal inauguration as CRP and took place virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions. SvdV introduced attendees. Apologies received from:

- Amanda Davis - The Plough
- Whaddon Parish Council

Item 2 **Election of officers: Chair, Vice Chair**

Two positions were available for consideration, Chair and Vice Chair. PWa put forward the following nominations, which were unanimously agreed:

- Chair: Susan van de Ven
- Vice Chair: Peter McDonald

Item 3	Annual Report
	<p>SG summarised the Annual Report, which is structured around the pillars of the CRN strategy and had been deferred from March. She also thanked SCDC for its support in the design and production of the report.</p> <p><u>Providing a voice for the community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Input to Passenger Benefit Fund.</i> Still awaiting outcome which has been delayed due to Covid-19 • <i>Cambridge South Station.</i> Attended presentation and gave opinions on site options. More recently have been asked to input views on how consultation will take place. • <i>East West Rail.</i> Engaged in the selection of the corridor and now keeping an eye on the route alignment process as it approaches the next stage of consultation in 2021. • <i>Foxton Travel Hub.</i> Input into first round of consultation and attended NMUs group. Recently completed note on barn building on site and asked to submit a note about its history and architecture. <p>Overall, feel very plugged into the issues going on with railways on our line and lots of opportunities to convey the voice of our community.</p> <p><u>Promoting health and sustainable travel</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to Covid-19 restrictions, a lot of work had been done with groups of people who lacked the confidence to travel by train or who had particular support needs. 'Try a Train' trips helped to give people more confidence travelling by rail. Sadly, this work has been halted since Covid began. • Since public transport has again opened up, have been trying to get word out to emphasise that you can travel safely by train. This messaging has been particularly aimed at commuters and students. SG has offered to do an article for inclusion in the South Cambs magazine. <p><u>Bringing communities together, supporting diversity and inclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great work was undertaken with the station gardeners last year. This year has been more about maintenance, with people watering the tubs over the summer • The cycle repair café at Meldreth which was intended to complement the installation of new cycle parking at Meldreth has been put on hold for the time being due to Covid restrictions. <p><u>Supporting Social and Economic Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Took part in Community Rail in the City event. Prepared a leaflet around pubs/nature trails/church trails intended to showcase what is accessible by train in our local area. • CRPs up and down our line have been promoting the fact you can now travel all the way through London through the production of a line guide. <p><u>Strengthening the Partnership</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of the first anniversary of the relaunch of the CRP, attended by local MP and Chair of SCDC <p><u>News from our stations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting and biking shelters at Meldreth • Foxton Travel Hub
Item 4	Accreditation
	<p>The CRP has received accreditation through the Community Rail Network.</p> <p>PWe highlighted that for a small CRP, they were impressed with how clearly the partnership follows the DfT's strategy and how each of the 'pillars' are having a big impact. Accreditation will last through to Spring 2021.</p>
Item 5	Financial Report (Community Interest Company Update)
	<p>SvdV extended thanks to PS for his work on the accounts on behalf of the CIC, which has worked hard to create a framework that lasts until the end of the GTR franchise. SvdV also thanked the Parish Councils for their continued funding of the CRP.</p> <p>PS summarised the financial report for the group which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 March 2020 have been submitted to HFL Accountants Limited. They include contributions from GTR of £10,000, SCDC of £6,500 and payment of £12,048.12 to SCDC for salary and overheads costs. • Details for the year ending 31 March 2021 to date include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Receipt of £13,414.00 from GTR ○ Payment of £14,011.28 due to be invoiced by SCDC for salary, national insurance, pension and apprenticeship levy with SCDC covering support costs. ○ Invoices yet to be raised for Parish Council contributions 2020-21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meldreth £ 700 • Melbourn £700 • Shepreth £700 • Foxton £700 <p>Overall, PS was happy with the financial position of the partnership</p> <p>PWe made the point that the CRP has been built around the structures that currently exist and is set up with the local authority and GTR until the end of the franchise. There is also a relationship with neighbours on the Greater Anglia</p>

	<p>route. In the current franchising climate need to make it clear to anyone who asks what the value of the partnership is.</p>
<p>Item 6</p>	<p>Supporting Covid-19 Community Recovery</p>
	<p>There was a discussion about what the partnership could do to support our community in its Covid-19 recovery. Need to acknowledge the situation we are in.</p> <p>AC advised that the focus of GTR at the present time is building back passenger confidence through making the service reliable and resilient. SG added that although there is an extra half hourly service in the afternoon, there is not yet one in the morning which is proving difficult for students travelling in to Cambridge as they either arrive far too early or without enough time to get to college once they arrive. There appears to be demand for people getting in for 10am.</p> <p>TS highlighted that it is very important for CRPs to pass information from the community back to TOCs so they can respond. He gave an example on the Southern network where they have put on additional buses as spares. There is flexibility in the system but they need to be informed.</p> <p>There was also a discussion on whether there was merit in approaching Stagecoach to investigate whether there could be benefit for them to join the partnership to make services more integrated as they rebuild services.</p> <p><i>ACTION - SvdV/SG to follow up with Stagecoach and explore synergies with their Covid recovery</i></p> <p>Discussion on how the partnership could help GTR to rebuild confidence, eg through films, particularly with students and the junior travel ambassadors. Suggestions included holding small events (respecting any current rules on gatherings) to say thank you and retain publicity through local press. SvdV also reminded AC that GTR has in the past given free tickets to the station volunteers as a means of thanking them for their time.</p> <p><i>ACTION - SG/SvdV to have a further conversation with AC about how the CRP can assist with rebuilding passenger confidence</i></p> <p>The issue of the Melbourn link to Meldreth station is still live and the partnership has been working with TTP on the deployment of the contribution from them to upgrading the path to Meldreth station. Also need to keep working on how the ramp to the London-bound platform should be funded.</p> <p><i>ACTION - AC to raise the need at GTR to keep working on how ramp to London platform is funded</i></p> <p>There has been a request from Shepreth Parish Council to install an Amazon locker at Shepreth Station. The placement needs to be looked at but it is something that has been done at other stations.</p>

	<p>The Community Rail Network have produced a guide to what CRPs can do help support the rail industry build back better. It is available on their website at: https://communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CR-Network-Recovery-and-Renewal-Sept20.pdf</p>
Item 7	Local Rail Improvement Plan
	<p>SG introduced the Local Rail Improvement Plan which she has produced, setting out the context of the three railway stations in the local area and bringing together various sources of information to give a steer on how the local community would like to see the stations evolve. The document builds on the original audit of the three stations carried out in 2016 by Railfuture. The audit has been updated as some things had already moved on and there were also things that weren't included. The plan also draws in the views of local users, gained through the Passenger Benefit Fund survey carried out in 2019. The plan draws together this research into a set of recommended improvements that the partnership wishes to share with the relevant rail, transport and highways decision-makers in viewing the overall picture of access to local rail travel in this corridor. The first example of this being shared is with the Greater Cambridge Partnership ahead of its consideration of the Foxton Travel Hub.</p> <p>The Foxton Travel Hub was discussed further and suggestions were made about how the local voice could be best reflected in the planning process upon which the scheme is now embarking on. It was suggested that the parish representatives, along with SG, PM and SvdV could coordinate ahead of the planning committee, with a view to presenting.</p> <p><i>ACTION - RJ/RW/PM/SG/SvdV to meet as a small group to agree the best way forward with presenting local views at Foxton Travel Hub planning committee.</i></p>
Item 8	Any other urgent business
	<p><u>Restore your Railway fund application.</u> Anthony Browne MP leading application for fund to investigate reopening of Harston and Sawston</p> <p><u>Cambridge South</u> Need to keep eye on this as it progresses as it seems that a much smaller footfall that is being planned for.</p> <p><u>Support the railway</u> There was a wide ranging discussion around the long term future of the railways as a result of the pandemic and a concern that the outlook could be quite bleak. Whilst there were concerns raised amongst the group regarding franchising, more optimistic points were also put forward. These included the need for rail to contribute to the zero carbon agenda and also evidence that although commuting trips into London have been badly affected, more local trips have seen a better rebound, so some London-centric TOCs may need to reconsider their business model.</p>
Item 9	Date of next meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th November 2020 - RUG

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 2021 - CRP Stakeholder meeting (date tba)• May 2021 - CRP AGM