

**Meldreth, Shepreth & Foxton Rail User Group Meeting
8 December 2010, 20.00– 21.30
Elin Way Sheltered Housing Community Room, Meldreth**

Minutes

Attendees/Station:

Susan van de Ven (chair)
Sue Hanson, Meldreth
Steve Hawkins, Meldreth
Geoff Barnes, Foxton
Robin Tunnah, Meldreth
Denise Pearmain, Meldreth
Linda Pearmain, Meldreth
Beatrice Fisher, Meldreth
Tim Rooke, Meldreth
Simon Bedlow, Meldreth
John Henderson, RailFuture
Alan Neville, National Express

Apologies:

SV Surinder Soond
SuH Pat Evans
SH Jim Egleton
GB Jane Egleton
RT Peter Wakefield
DP David Piggott
LP John Evans
BP
TR
SB
JH
AN

1. Welcome and apologies	Actions
SV welcomed all new members.	
<p>2. Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>SV commented that Richard Marchant (FCC) has been on sick leave, so certain actions have not yet been carried forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3a: AN confirmed that they're waiting for the final design of the RUG's notice board, ready to put on platform 3, Cambridge Station. • 3d: RM was going to check whether a child from Waterbeach could get to Ely with the 50% discount – <i>carried forward</i> • 3e: Parking figures at Meldreth and Shepreth confirmed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meldreth: out of 47 spaces, the highest usage in 1 day was 17 spaces; the lowest was 1 space. ○ Shepreth: only 1 space was observed as being used. The car park now has a large container covering several parking spaces. ○ SB to provide a spread sheet on parking patterns at both stations ○ SV also commented that bikes were being parked on the Melbourn side of the tracks; Passenger Focus had recommended requesting cycle racks there. ○ One member expressed disappointment in FCC's attitude, as they are not prepared to share information about car park surveys. Members agreed that this issue looks to continue to remain unresolved; Meldreth car park prices were put back up to £3 a day without consultation. ○ One member spoke to Julie Allan (FCC) and showed her the car parking leaflet that was misleading. Should the group challenge this? Another member pointed out that the £3 charge is still showing as £2 on the board. ○ FCC have used the argument that the reason they 	SB

<p>charge for car parks is to lower crime. One member asked what was the data on Meldreth and Shepreth car park crime? Passenger Focus think it is inappropriate to charge small rural stations, as there are fewer cars and therefore less crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There were further issues raised by RT, who will send key points to SV for actioning. ● 3j: SV confirmed that there are a lot of Rail User Groups with a lot of newsletters. Members were asked to please let her know if they were still interested in receiving 	RT
<p>3. Updates</p> <p>a. <i>Meldreth and Shepreth Station car park monitoring results</i> See item 2 above</p> <p>b. <i>Foxton level crossing: pedestrian gate closures, barrier down time queries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barrington gates closed since August, forcing pedestrians to walk around a dark stretch and interrupting the cycle path. Cyclists have to go onto the A10 against the traffic flow, which is very dangerous. There is no resolution in sight. Although this is a Network Rail issue, one member suggested that the CCC should be following this up, as it affects the cycle lanes. SV ● SV thanked the Royston Weekly News Reporter who was very careful to get the facts right and called Network Rail frequently. ● Foxton gates were also closed for a few days, for safety reasons. SV to make a retrospective point to police that if those gates were to close again, would safety standards be legally acceptable? SV <p>c. <i>Extra seating capacity from 12 Dec</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shepreth passenger wrote to SV to complain about the lack of space on the 07.45 train to Cambridge. FCC's response was that bikes should be put in the designated area. SV pointed out that the designated area is not marked on these trains. ● AN confirmed that Royston platform 2 will be extended to accommodate 12 carriages (18.14 from London). Once the train arrives at Royston, 8 will go directly to Cambridge, 4 will call at Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton, so passengers will need to make sure they get on the back carriages. Members thanked and congratulated FCC for this development. <p>d. <i>Other updates from members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FCC wrote to SV about the train stalling problem on the track near Foxton in late October. Appreciation expressed for FCC's good communication. ● One member commented that bus replacements have been very good during disruptions ● Shepreth tannoy's are now much louder, and can be heard from every part of the platform ● No rise in the fares from Meldreth to Cambridge in 2011 ● Meldreth to Royston fare down a few pence ● Meldreth to London fare going up by approx £400 <p>4. <i>Adopt-a-station garden projects: Alan Neville, National Express</i> AN introduced himself and his area of National Express (Elsenham SV to</p>	

	to Whittlesea). He runs the Adopt-a-station initiative and although this doesn't replace regular inspections, it encourages passengers to care about their local station. AN showed examples of success stories, projects, information posters and sponsorship ideas. At the Q&A session, one member suggested that CEMEX might be interested in helping Foxton Station with sponsorship.	liaise with GB and Cemex
5.	<i>Three stations' birthdays</i> SV to approach village schools, parish councils and local history groups.	SV
a.	<i>Setting a date and local organisers</i> Planned for June or July, one weekend during term time.	
b.	<i>Involvement of local village schools and groups</i> Plan to bring the celebration into school activities	SV
c.	<i>Choosing a campaign priority to promote</i> Meldreth has the best service, and Foxton/Shepreth are in danger of falling behind, so they should be included. SV had the idea of using Adopt-a-station philosophy. Members were asked to let SV know if they had any ideas.	
6.	<i>AGM, 8 March 2010, 7.30, Melbourn Village College</i>	
a.	<i>Confirmation of attendance</i> SCDC Community Transport, CCC Environment Services, CCC Passenger Transport, Cambs Police. Responses awaited from Meldreth Manor School and County Council Portfolio Holders for Highways and Infrastructure.	
b.	<i>Setting next year's priority list: thinking ahead</i> Car charges Disabled access Community transport connections - links to stations by busses	
	Any other updates	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Meet the Manager" session on FFC website. RT and any other interested members to check it. • Michael Portillo's "Great British Railways" will be aired in early January, which will be about stations in East Anglia, including Ely. 	RT
5.	Date of next meeting AGM: 8 March 2011, Melbourn Village College, 7:30 (to include brief regular meeting.)	

	Action points to agree (A), including "must-haves" (MH) and "aspirations" (ASP)	
A	Letter to Meldreth Parish Council expressing concerns about dangerous traffic	Done
A	Letter to Shepreth Parish Council expressing concerns about a valuable village amenity being empty because of high car park charges	Done
A	Post minutes on Parish Council notice boards	Done

A	Request the Neighbourhood Police Panel to keep an eye out for illegal parking in the area between the Station entrance at Meldreth and the first chicane in High Street.	Done
A	Create a link from village websites to new website.	Done
A	Delay repay scheme on FCC website. Members to publicise more through posters in the villages and parish magazines.	Done
A	Shepreth Wildlife Park to maintain a list of those using Shepreth Station.	RW
MH	Drop the car park charge to £1 a day.	
MH	Clear and accessible information about fares. Better communication with all schools and colleges.	
MH	Ramps on southbound platform on Meldreth Station.	
ASP	Drop fares for young people	Done
ASP	Use Young Person's Railcard in non-commuting direction before 10.00	
ASP	Free parking in the car parks	
ASP	Better provision for bikes on trains and cycle racks	improving
ASP	To improve timetables	