

SMALL STEPS: IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AT MELDRETH STATION

The Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group has been searching for opportunities to help less mobile people access rail service from Meldreth's London-bound platform, which is accessible only by steps – whether from the other platform or from the adjoining footpath. One of many accessibility issues is the need for passengers arriving from the Melbourn footpath to cross over the bridge to purchase a ticket.

The Rail User Group was not able to secure a second ticket machine for the London platform, but First Capital Connect offered to move either the ticket vending machine, or the permit to travel machine – both now on the Meldreth side – to the London platform. For a number of reasons, the Rail User Group decided unanimously that it made most sense to move the permit to travel machine. This means that passengers accessing the station from the Melbourn footpath, but unable to cross the bridge, can simply purchase a permit to travel ticket, which will entitle them to board the train legally. Any outstanding balance in ticket cost can be paid at their destination. A permit to travel ticket can be bought with as little as a 20 pence coin.

The November footfall count held at Meldreth Station showed that the majority of train journeys from Meldreth are in the direction of Cambridge.

Meanwhile, please remember whenever possible to buy your tickets from the booking office!

We would like to think that our station master and booking office will be in place forever. Using the booking office as often as possible is the best thing that people can do, if they want to help protect this service.