

## **Update on rail campaign for MSF Rail User Group meeting**

February 22, 2010

To note: There is intense and regular communication with FCC on a number of local rail issues and I have found good people to work with who understand the logic behind these issues, which are all about increasing access to rail service.

Railfuture believes that we are in decent shape at all three stations in terms of footfall. Meldreth is an intermediate hub between Foxton/Shepreth and Royston.

1. Student Fares: cooperation on student discount fare, by First Capital Connect and Cambridgeshire County Council, allied also with National Express, has been agreed for the very first time, and yesterday apparently the terms were agreed for the 2010-11 school year. Details will be forthcoming. Getting the fare down to a much lower level must be ultimate goal, but as a first step, removal of confusion and disparities in fares will hopefully have been achieved, as well as the principle that all parties concerned need to focus on transport needs of young people. Further, pressure has been brought to bear on County Council's Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on young people's transport and access needs, and the subject is to be reviewed.
2. Car park charges at Meldreth and Shepreth: In December, FCC agreed to review business case for both, given low levels of parking. Back at the office this was overridden by car park officer. I have been negotiating with someone more senior who has agreed to request statistics on usage to see if a lower charge would be justified. It is clear that neither car park will revert to free parking, but it seems worth trying to get the charge down to benefit regular commuters for whom the charges add significant extra cost to travel.
3. Disabled access at Meldreth: One new ramp is in at cost to FCC of £38,000. Photo taken of Meldreth Manor and Scope Transition young people features on FCC leaflet about access. We are pushing hard for ramp on the other side and FCC have agreed to put in a bid to Access for All, in September of this year.
4. Cycle wheeling channel at Meldreth is unfortunately positioned. The width of the stair case and the steepness of the incline are such that the staircase on either side of the bridge cannot accommodate the kind of channel we'd like to see – grooved, and at a small distance from the hand railing. Have had about six site visits and feel we may have reached a dead-end.
5. Foxton: Recognition of lack of car parking space has given some weight to successful efforts toward cycle racks to be installed, in joint cooperation between CCC and FCC. Also, Joint Area Traffic Management Committee (SCDC and CCC) has agreed to put down as a reserve on its cycle path list a stretch connecting Harston and Foxton, to increase access to Foxton Station.
6. Shepreth: Ticket machine vandalism severe. Court case around now – pattern of ticket machine vandalism across King's Cross-Cambridge line. Situation worse at Shepreth due to fact that it is out of sight. Foxton has signal box and Meldreth is a manned station. Also at Shepreth – electronic information boards down for a very long time; sometimes connected to a fault extended all the way across the line.

Cllr Susan van de Ven