



Minutes of Meldreth, Shepreth, Foxton Community Rail Partnership Tuesday 26th March 2019, 10AM Shepreth Plough

Attendees:

- Susan van de Ven
- Sarah Grove - CRP Project Officer
- Sarah Hatcher - Cambridgeshire County Council
- Paul Webster - ACORP
- Tim Sparrow - ACORP/Sussex CRP
- Geoff Barnes - Foxton PC
- Ruth White - Shepreth PC
- Roger James - Meldreth PC
- Amanda Davis - The Plough (Business member)
- Stephen Pritchard - TTP/Melbourn Science Park
- Beverly Cottrell - CIC
- Katherine Cox - GTR
- Clare Webb - Network Rail

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies received from Melbourn Parish Council, Matt Brennan (NR), Peter Sutton and Brian Clarkstone (both CIC directors)

2. Minutes of previous meeting

All agreed.

3. Community Interest Company update

BC gave update. Up and running, bank account now opened. Have started to receive payments from Parish Councils. Everything going well.

4. Line Action Plan update

Schools update:

Started with Barrington School. Thanks to CW for getting access to signal box. Meldreth and Barrington schools both have a group of children who are Junior Travel Ambassadors (sponsored by CCC). Have remit within their school to promote healthy/green travel. Very successful visit and thanks to the NR Operations Manager who was very engaging with the children. Melbourn and Foxton schools still to do. Also planning to do something for rail safety week.

Other user groups that SG has been engaging with include:

- 'Try the Train' scheme;
- 'Eddies' - do lots of work with young people with learning difficulties. SG working on a plan to bring them onto the train at Cambridge and take them for an outing to Stevenage.
- 'Safe Soulmate' - based in Cambridge but cover whole area. Working with adults with severe autism and learning difficulties to help make friends.

- 'HomeStart' - based in Meldreth, SG exploring whether any of their groups of mums might like to come on the train with toddlers and get some confidence taking their children on the train.
- Following up with SCDC to identify other groups to engage with, eg WI outing to Hatfield House.

Local businesses update:

SP updated progress with the extension to Melbourn Science Park. A s106 has been agreed with the majority of the cash allocated to accessibility in particular to PT. 11% of staff use the railway and the s106 secures a significant upgrade to the Melbourn to Meldreth footpath across the fields. This includes provision of a ramp to the south-bound platform. The wording of the s106 has been changed to bring forward this contribution to before work starts, rather than on occupation. This is to tie in with an additional £80k s106 contribution from a residential development in Melbourn and will allow the improvements to be brought forward earlier. The Science Park continues to encourage the use of public transport.

A £25k contribution is also being made to towards the Melbourn-Royston cycle link.

SP advised that generally the rail service had settled down, although communication remains an issue when there is disruption. Another recurring issue is the lack of announcements regarding the short platforms at the villages requiring people to travel in the front four carriages.

Action: KC to feed issue back again to control bases

SvdV highlighted how important support from local businesses is in making bids and welcomed SP's signature on recent bid made to new DfT cycle/rail fund. (The RUG along with the Royston and Villages RUG has made an application to a new fund to get this link). A bid has also been made to the DfT Access for All fund, result should be known in a few weeks. If this is not successful, there are a couple of other possible funds we could look to:

- GTR Minor Works Fund (for stations with less than 1m footfall)
- Passenger Improvement Fund (£15m pot from GTR's fine for the May 2018 timetabling problems)

Parish Council update

Issues still remain in Shepreth caused by the longer downtime at the barrier and the removal of the unofficial car park on NR land. There have been reports of people climbing over the barrier to get to the other platform. Queues along Station Rd causing problems for people accessing their properties. The Parish Council have received proposals for signing and lining in the vicinity of the crossing to help deal with some of the issues, however have been asked for a contribution of £7,500 towards this which they feel is unfair given that the problems are caused by NR decisions. CW advised that any reports of people climbing over the barriers are reported to British Transport Police as they can access CCTV footage.

Action: CW to follow up with colleagues at NR and come back to RW

Latest version of Line Action Plan

SG gave an update. New line action plan is now aligned with the four 'pillars' of the accreditation criteria.

Providing a voice for the community.

- Lots of things being consulted on where CRP are being seen as a stakeholder, eg EWR, Foxton, Cambridge South Station

- SvdV and SG were invited to talk to Cambridge City MP and CEO of GTR about connectivity issues in Cambridge area.
- Also visited all Parish Councils.
- Approached Barrington PC for a contribution on par with others. Whaddon small but very rail orientated. Need to consider how partnership could expand and how we deal with this.
- Shepreth car park and level crossing ramifications.

Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel

- Outreach work with schools
- Engaging with local businesses and securing improvements through planning applications

Bringing Communities Together

- Volunteer opportunities especially for young people, station gardening etc

Supporting Social and Economic development

- SG will be attending Community Rail in the City event on 15th May with Shepreth Wildlife Park. This is a national event all about raising the profile of Community Rail.

Strengthening partnership

- SG continues to make use of social media, and has managed to get posters up at stations

5. Accreditation (ACORP)

PW advised that as part of the DfT's new Community Rail strategy, one of the benefits is the idea of accreditation. CRPs can be accredited by DfT for work they do. Opens up more profile for CRP across DfT and nationwide. Also opportunities for funding and closer links on consultation and processes with TOCs and NR. There is a set of criteria each CRP has to go through including:

- An activity plan. (in new format)
- Evidence of successes and things achieved in last year
- Policies, code of conduct, ToR.
- Basic policies that any organisations should have eg H&S policy. (MSFCRP under umbrella of SCDC so covered by them)
- Financial procedures (taken care of by CIC)

Once awarded will be able to use a quality mark on headed paper etc, gives extra gravitas. Guidance on DfT's website.

6. Formal CRP re-launch

Planned for 24th May. Some of the funding from GTR came with a requirement that we have an 'event' and need our local MP present to cut the ribbon. This co-ordinates with half term, Heidi Allen will join us at Shepreth Station at 11am. Our job will be to co-ordinate replanting of all the tubs. Approach new businesses to adopt tubs. Will then walk to The Plough. Invite will be sent out.

7. Franchise planning

Half hourly off peak service we now have was not a DfT requirement, it was a result of lobbying by the RUG and getting it on a wishlist. PW reminded the group that the half hourly service is fundamental to GCP plans to get traffic off our roads. We need to ensure that this is written into the

franchise wishlist. The student discount also needs to be carried forward, as well as funding for the CRP officer post.

8. Date of next meeting

Need an AGM, we also wanted to invite a wider range of people once a year and this could be the opportunity to do this.

ACTION: SvdV will circulate some dates for the autumn.

9. AOB

ACORP awards - entries open 15 April if there are any projects we want to submit.

Meeting closed at 12:00.