

# 2018-11-27 CRP meeting minutes

27 November 2018

14:00

## Attendees:

- Susan van de Ven - Chair
- Sarah Grove - CRP Project Officer
- Sarah Hatcher – Cambs County Council
- Paul Webster – ACORP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships)
- Cecilia Matthew Rhodes - SCDC Community officer
- Tim Sparrow - ACORP
- Geoff Barnes Foxton PC
- Ruth White - Shepreth PC
- Roger James – Meldreth PC
- Amanda Davies - The Plough (Business member)
- Stephen Pritchard - TTP Melbourn Science Park
- Chris Burton - Railfuture
- Beverly Cotterell - CIC

## Apologies:

- Melbourn PC
- Barrington PC
- Rebecca Willers (Shepreth Wildlife Park)
- District Councillors
- Peter Sutton (CIC Director)
- Brian Parkstone (CIC Director)
- Richard Goddin - Meldreth PC
- Peter Wakefield - Railfuture
- GTR
- NR

- **Welcome and apologies**

Susan explained CRP consists of PC reps, SCDC, CCC reps, ACORP, Railfuture, Local Business reps. Concerned with community development around the railway line. Try to have a strategic voice and work with the rail industry. There is also a RUG to hold the industry to account for the day to day operation of the service, but inevitably some overlap.

- **Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes accepted.

### **3. Community Interest Company update**

SvdV gave a brief summary of why the CIC was established. A few years ago we were a new CRP but grew as we had more opportunities to bring projects and community development to our area. The CRP started attracting funding and there was concern we needed a structure and to be held accountable. Investigated good models for us and have now set up a CIC. Bank Account being set up and will now be accountable.

#### **4. Liaison with parish councils**

A six-month report was circulated to the group. SG had started in post in February. Early tasks included communications. After May, many things we were going to do were hijacked by the Thameslink Timetable meltdown. Primary concern of the community was the train service. SvdV and SG have been to London and met with GTR, many emails back and forth, joined with other RUGs along line to submit joint letters to GTR and MPs all the way along the line. Have had some productive meetings with GTR. Early December, should be getting back all the weekday services that should be in the May timetable. Weekend timetable is still unimproved, still to fight for. No semi-fast services restored.

Much support from ACORP; SG had been on one of their training courses. Community Rail Education conference and Volunteering and Community Involvement conference.

New rep at NR - Claire Webb. SG made contact with her and said she will help in whatever way she can.

Station gardening - planting in the spring. Autumn planting also happened - all tubs been 'winterised'.

While SG role is meant to be around community development, first thing she did was clean up all our communication platforms and data (GDOR). We could not have coped during timetable meltdown without the work that SG has done.

Restoration of weekend timetable key to local businesses. SvdV emphasised they can feed back through RUG (next meeting on 5th).

PW - The DfT see the role of CRPs vital as part of the role of the national network. There is a new DfT strategy for Community Rail. On ACORP and DfT website. There is a shift from just about being numbers on trains to reaching out into more socially isolated communities. To work with our providers of public transport. Four pillars: providing a voice for the community, promoting sustainable and healthy travel, bringing communities together and supporting diversity and inclusion, engaging with young people. Supporting social and economic development.

PW gave update on new accreditation criteria. Current system called 'designation' - by DfT which unlocked funding channels. This strategy changes this view to accreditation. Organisation becomes accredited provider of community services.

TS - one of things is you prove you have responsible governance and accountability. Can apply now for accreditation. Suggested CRP puts name forward as will. Moves from a £30k pot to £300k. More for capital expenditure including minor infrastructure. Important for CRP to be aware of franchise consultation.

SvdV -observed that the community side has played its part but the rail industry is the weak link.

Not a strong option to solve our last mile problems by Community Transport as not allowed to mimick a scheduled service.

ACTION - Cecelia and Sarahs G and H, try and flag problem of station travel planning and last mile links to GCP.

Log on to [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website and sign up for emails about transport consultations.

Need to give consideration to what we want to ask the next bidders for.

Amanda - highlighted reliability issue. Weekends are also key so people can get to them in their leisure time. Stephen Pritchard said highlighted for their business, reliability is more important than frequency.

## **5. Line Action Plan update**

A copy of the Line Action Plan was circulated to the group. This is a live document that is continually updated

## **6. Infrastructure Projects**

Foxton Level Crossing feasibility. SvdV and SG will be talking to GCP on 7th December.

EWR: SvdV and SG go to meeting and subscribe to updates. Announcement of decision has been pushed back into first quarter of 2019. Will affect Meldreth and Shepreth in terms of construction, plus knock on at Foxton once trains come into use. CRP is not part of any pressure group, rather it is noting what is happening around us and sharing information where appropriate. If southern route is chosen, then we will engage more fully especially with getting contributions from EWR for local projects.

## **7. Liaison with local schools**

Something we wanted to do through CRP. Now trains are settling down have more time to think about. SG has produced leaflets for parents for Cambridgeshire Connect card. SG attended post-16 evening at MVC and spoke to quite a few parents.

Junior Travel Ambassadors conference in Huntingdon. Organised by CCC, attended by SG and SvdV. Ambassadors from all CC schools and had sessions on different modes. Organisers not keen to include rail, so SG put proposal together to do our own. Outline of sessions we want to run. Will run in National Rail Safety Week. NR and GTR have been very supportive and have offered to help. SG has also organised a visit for Barrington Junior Travel Ambassadors to Foxton signal box. May need a small grant to cover community transport to move Barrington children.

Cycle parking at statins is a big concern - to mention at Rail User Group.

SvdV wanted to highlight the role the CRP has had in helping to source help for suicide prevention on the railway.

#### **8. Liaison with local business**

Shepreth Wildlife Park: 347 responses to staff survey about what time they arrive and how. 6.1% arrive by rail. 21 people. Enthusiasm for links to the station, potential further 28% to use train. A number of people have been coming for job interviews and couldn't get there because trains weren't running. Would like to help with connection to the station suits them. Need to make routes more accessible and friendly.

ACTION: SG to put Patrick Ladbury in touch with TTP.

Maycroft Care Home keen to see Meldreth Station as a dementia-friendly station.

#### **9. Formal CRP re-launch**

Caveat on £5k GTR contribution was there needs to be a formal re-launch of CRP with MP. Probably do in May half term when re-do the tubs.

ACTION: will get dates from Heidi Allen for dates

#### **10. Date of next meeting**

Agreed to have three to four meetings a year. Next meeting middle - Monday March 18th 2-4