

2021-01-28 CRP Stakeholder meeting

28 January 2021

13:52

	Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership Stakeholder Meeting (Virtual)	
Date:	28 January 2021, 2pm	
Present:	Susan van de Ven (SvdV)	CRP Chair and CCC Cllr for Melbourn and Bassingbourn
	Sarah Grove (SG)	CRP Project Officer
	Tim Sparrow (TS)	Community Rail Network (formerly ACORP)
	Paul Webster (PWe)	Community Rail Network (formerly ACORP)
	Peter Wakefield (PWa)	Railfuture
	Sarah Hatcher (SH)	CCC (officer)
	Jay Clark (JC)	SCDC (officer)
	Andrew Chillingsworth (AC)	GTR
	Roger James (RJ)	Meldreth Parish Council
	Ruth White (RW)	Shepreth Parish Council
	Stephen Pritchard (SP)	Melbourn Science Park
	Charles Baker	Network Rail
	Rebecca Willers	Shepreth Wildlife Park
Item 1	Welcome and apologies	
	The meeting took place virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions.	
Item 2	Minutes of previous meeting	
	<p>Minutes of previous minutes approved.</p> <p>Outstanding actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SvdV to follow up with Stagecoach on synergies with Covid recovery. Premature at the moment. Parish Reps to meet as a small group to discuss how to input to the design of the Foxton Travel Hub. GCP will be consulting on this in March so the group will need to be working together by then. 	
Item 3	Updates	
	<p>Passenger Benefit Fund: AC gave an update on the projects being funded from the Passenger Benefit Fund:</p>	

- Foxton - waiting shelter and extra seating due for completion in March, passenger information screen in April;
- Meldreth - completion of waiting shelter and seating in March, toilet improvement complete in April;
- Shepreth - extra seating and landscaping work due for completion in March, passenger information screen in April, waiting shelter in June. Plans for the artwork for Shepreth have been received, the art concept is around major habitats to reflect wildlife park.

ACTION: AC to share document with the artwork detail in with SvdV so that parish reps can share detail with residents and steering group can follow up on any points.

PW enquired about the state of the building at Shepreth station and expressed concerns that it might be being neglected and falling into disrepair. CB advised that Network Rail had sold it to the Arch Company, who immediately leased it back to Network Rail however that lease has now expired.

ACTION: CB to supply SG with a reference number for the lease of the building at Shepreth Station if possible, to enable her to enquire further about plans for the building

RW enquired whether there was any news on ticket machine on Cambridge-bound side. AC - not on list.

ACTION: AC to enquire further within GTR about the possibility of a ticket machine on the Cambridge-bound platform at Shepreth.

Ramp at London Platform, Meldreth:

GTR are procuring a feasibility study and CCTV for new cycle parking at station, waiting to get details from procurement. Invoice needs to be sent to CRP before end of financial year. MSP contributed £45k through s106 to project. Most critical piece is ramp. On leasehold land - owned by NR, leased by GTR. Pass Benefit Fund money for feasibility for design, this will then trigger processes for upgrade to the path. Will also benefit from extra funds from GCP as part of Melbourn Greenway. Land negotiation issue with farmer whose field RoW passes through. Footpath that adjoins ramp must meet same standards (equalities act) so can't advance footpath until design for ramp ready. County team and GTR team and SG and SvdV have been talking to map out process.

ACTION: SvdV to invite SP to next meeting to discuss path.

ACTION: AC to get some timescales with Patrick Ladbury to progress ramp work

Foxton Travel Hub:

SvdV reiterated concerns over capacity of Foxton Station to cope with a 900-space car park. Scheme will go to public consultation in the spring. Latest plan is that it has been scaled back to 500 spaces where 50-60% would be covered with solar panels. Still in same position on opposite side of A10 to station and talking about what kind of traffic control to have. Now talking about a footbridge over the tracks with lifts. GCP has invited CRP to join a small working party on NMUs to contribute to details. Currently no provision for buses to go into the site as the bus company don't want this. Lots of designated cycle parking including lockers and also a small toilet building. A10 Cycle

	<p>campaign also involved and overlaps with this group. Question over whether a platform extension ought to be specified.</p> <p><i>ACTION: CB to look into what NR's position on Foxton Travel Hub scheme is and share with AC and SvdV</i></p> <p>March 2021 consultation on new timetable: Relates to London-bound traffic and passenger flow and is based on our plea to restore a morning semifast-type service to London. Timetable change probably won't take place until December 2022. With the streamlining of Kings Cross, one of the things the GTR timetabling team want to do is simplify timetables and provide us with sub-60 min morning and afternoon services. This would be a train which stops everywhere up to Letchworth, omitting Stevenage, Knebworth etc meaning journey time from Foxton would be 57-58 mins, with four or five trains in the very peaks of 6-8am and 5.30-7.30pm. GTR were interested to know our opinions on it. It is obviously supported as it was our aspiration to restore the previous service lost in the May 2018 timetable change. Also made a strong message about the half hourly weekend services.</p>
Item 4	Franchise: anticipated arrangements for extension from Sept 21
	<p>TOC's financial contribution to CRP under new franchise arrangements</p> <p>SvdV has had a conversation with GTR about the ongoing funding of the CRP. The current operating agreement runs to 19 September 2021. As it is not a full year, GTR can only commit to pro-rata(6/13ths) funding of CRP this year to September, although annual funding has been increased by RPI. Hopefully there will be an extension to the franchise and it is also recognised the benefits that CRPs bring. Anticipate that DfT would like to continue funding of CRP but need DfT approval to confirm that, there should be some indication mid Feb -mid March on this. It would be useful for CRP to make our own representation to the DfT on contribution to the local economy. Keep sharing the good news stories.</p> <p><i>ACTION: SG/SvdV to send a letter of support to the DfT to demonstrate the value of what we do as a CRP</i></p> <p><i>ACTION: SvdV and SG, RW and RJ to work together to update leaflets on walks from our stations.</i></p>
Item 5	AOB
	<p>Melbourn Science Park Around 30% on site at the moment, most driving in by car. Longer term very keen on rail and the cycle path.</p> <p><i>ACTION: CSP to work on a plan to build confidence in public transport</i></p> <p>Signage project SG speaking to the highways team about signing the village stations from the A10. It might be possible to badge up existing signs and will be design to fit in with the Melbourn Greenways project. Also looking at having some wayfinding signs from stations, this is being planned at the moment. Also looking at nice welcome boards so that we can direct people to things locally.</p>

	<p>NR Re-signalling, Re-lock and Re-Control Project (3CR) and Public Consultation. NR will be launching a consultation shortly on renewing a number of level crossings in the county. Locally, this includes converting the Meldreth Road, Shepreth crossing from a half barrier to full barrier. The consultation will run from 1 March to 11 April 2021.</p> <p>DfT Cycle-Rail fund Hasn't launched yet but one to look out for, likely to be a couple of million aimed at linking communities to rail stations. Announcement sometime in February.</p>
Item 6	Date of next meeting
	TBA