

## 2022-07-12 CRP Stakeholder meeting

	<b>Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership Stakeholder Meeting (Elin Way Community Centre, Meldreth)</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	12 July 2021, 10am	
<b>Present:</b>	Susan van de Ven (SvdV)	CRP Chair and CCC Cllr for Melbourn, Meldreth, Whaddon and Bassingbourn
	Sarah Grove (SG)	CRP Project Officer (SCDC)
	Tim Sparrow (TS)	Community Rail Network (formerly ACORP)
	Sarah Hatcher (SH)	CCC (officer)
	Roger James (RJ)	Meldreth Parish Council
	Nick Downer (ND)	Shepreth Parish Council
	Matt Humphries	Bruntwood SciTech (Melbourn Science Park)
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	
	<p>Apologies from:</p> <p>GTR  Network Rail  Jay Clark - SCDC  Peter Wakefield (RailFuture)  Paul Webster - Community Rail Network  Peter MacDonald- CCC  Jose Hales - Melbourn PC/SCDC  Sally-Ann Hart - Melbourn PC/SCDC  Peter Sutton  Shepreth Wildlife Park  Andy Brown - Foxton PC  Whaddon PC  Stephen Pritchard - TTP Melbourn Science Park</p>	
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	
	Will be published on website.	
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Annual Report</b>	
	<p>SG ran through the contents of the annual report. Under obligation to produce every year but a nice opportunity to summarise what has happened over the last twelve months. As in the previous year, there has been a lack of train-based activity due to the pandemic. Have however managed to do much more work around the stations. The</p>	

report is structured around the four key pillars of the DfT Community Rail Development Strategy.

#### **Voice for the community**

- Talking to GTR about timetable issues - they had staffing and loading issues. Needed to talk to them about key workers and special stop orders. Very much keeping in touch with timetable team.
- Foxtton Travel Hub and EWR. Have put in responses to both consultations.
- Response to Foxtton had to be balanced between the desire for Foxtton to become a vibrant travel hub and the views of the local community. As it stands, the travel hub is heading towards a planning application including 200 car spaces, 150 bike spaces and at last reference, a passenger bridge across the railway.
- EWR - further engagement on this scheme scheduled. Another public event has already taken place with two more scheduled for July (Haslingfield and Cambourne). From CRP perspective, all about balancing the need for an east-west connection with the needs of residents. At present, no new station planned to the south (except Cambridge South) so no obvious benefit to local travellers. Have made point that improvements need to be made at existing local stations.

#### **Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel**

- Meldreth underpass. Launched a public survey on what people thought about four aspects of underpass, safety, lighting, artwork and vegetation. 375 responses. Many from Melbourn, Meldreth and Cambridge. Ran some in-person events on school run time as young people were under-represented. Good response from employers at Science Park and increase in young people responding as result of in-person events. Will be looking at more contextual responses and how to accommodate feedback.

#### **Bringing communities together and supporting diversity and inclusion**

- Station Gardening. Concentrating on Shepreth and Meldreth. Massive clear up with Shepreth memorial garden. No formal planting but lots of poppies and wildflowers. Resident who moved into one of flats at Meldreth Station has informally taken on station garden as no garden of own, in conjunction with Meldreth Veg Club. Have had a good clear out, will come back in autumn to plant up but some good events.

#### **Supporting Economic Development**

- Worked with other CRPs along Thameslink line to create website Countryside, Capital, Coast,. Won 2nd at CR awards. Expanding interesting features of the website, about villages.

#### **Strengthening the partnership**

- Have worked with new people this year. Has been good to meet with other CRP officers along Thameslink. Has also helped in interaction with GTR as able to negotiate in a more sensitive way.
- Re-accredited last year and will take place again in August. It is a good practice stamp with a focus on forward planning and ensuring finance is in order.
- Didn't manage as much with schools due to pandemic as would have liked, although have worked with MVC on the Meldreth underpass and have continued to sponsor DoE volunteers throughout the pandemic.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SG has been able to secure grants from GTR and SCDC for various gardening projects from zero carbon, community chest so additional benefits to being plugged into the 'know'.</li> <li>• Also worked with Melbourn Timebank and taken part in well-being walks, providing good opportunities to understand what people are talking about locally.</li> </ul>
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Line Action Plan Review</b>
	<p>SG ran through some highlights of the plan for 2022/23 Line Action Plan, also arranged around the four pillars:</p> <p><b>Voice for community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will continue to engage on the Foxton Travel Hub and EWR consultations, as well as responding to the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan produced by the Combined Authority. Very little mention of our stations</li> <li>• Meldreth underpass. Survey closed.</li> <li>• Getting our stations formally adopted. At Meldreth, may be Veg Club that adopt.</li> <li>• C3R project. Staying in contact with Network Rail. Inevitability to full barriers at Meldreth Rd level crossing if we want faster/more trains but don't want the traffic problems that were seen at the Station Road barrier when it was converted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melbourn Greenway - one of twelve greenways out of Cambridge, links to Royston. Consists of ways of getting around without relying on a car for the whole journey. Links to all three stations. Funded by Greater Cambridge Partnership. Already have the rump of scheme between Cambridge and Melbourn Science Park. Path between Melbourn and Meldreth has been adopted by the Greenway team as they have the expertise to help make that a reality. A complex project, ramp connecting to Meldreth station is challenging regarding funding. £45k s106 from TTP, contingent on path but this is being held up on land acquisition issues. Has been flagged by GCP as priority. Also very interested in Royston A505 bridge and southern end of the link.</li> <li>• Cycle repair café. Science Park will help out by lending Dr Bike to be held at Meldreth station.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION</b> - SvdV/SG to investigate electric bike demo at café.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bringing communities together</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try the Train Day. SG has been asked to organise a trip as part of SCDC's drive to encourage new mums to have the confidence to breastfeed more in public. Link to wildlife park. GTR/SCDC/Wildlife park as partner.</li> <li>• Children - refresh artwork at Meldreth underpass. Most people said art should be refreshed every 3-5 years. Art department at MVC have been consulted and have come up with some ideas.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In process of developing project with local primary school to stencil the inside of the footbridge at Meldreth.</li> <li>• Promoting leisure and tourism by train. Working on idea to look at line from Hitchin to Cambridge, eg half an hour to travel between the two. Quite a lot of material that has been created, section on website, graphics for social media, photos etc but has been postponed due to rail strikes. Trying to tie in with Community Rail Network campaign but has been postponed once. If they postpone again, SG will go ahead anyway. Also published some station to station walks. Discussed expanding to provide cycle rides from each station to cater for different ages/abilities/stamina etc.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION</b> - SvdV/SG/SH to meet to consider including cycle routes from each station, tailored to different kinds of rider</li> <li>• Melbourn Science Park - SG spent a day talking to people on Science Park, encouraging them to think about how they travel and using some incentives. A good awareness-raising day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strengthening the partnership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will continue working with CRP officers along the line to share best practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Your Station, Your Community</b>
	<p><b>Shepreth Station</b></p> <p>Continuing concern in the community about the abandonment of buildings at Shepreth Stations. A local resident has recently taken many photos to show the decline in the fabric of the building. Ownership of the building isn't straightforward - to left of arch is owned by the Arch Company (bought form NR). Right owned by NR, leased to GTR. Looked into preserving left hand side to preserve it eg via preservation order. Want to make it into a community-led space.</p> <p><b>Your station, Your community fund</b></p> <p>A new fund has been announced by GTR. Strands include positive mental health, diversity and inclusion, employability and confidence building as well as environmental sustainability. There is £500k in the pot for this year. Min application is £1k, max £50k. Open to community groups in local area up to 15 miles from station. Potential projects in our area might be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art project at Meldreth underpass</li> <li>• Revitalisation of Shepreth Station, ask for fund to pay for a proper survey. A formal audit would be another way of getting more information about it. One organisation can make more than one application, but may wish tactically to do it differently eg CRP apply for Meldreth underpass, Shepreth PC to apply for Shepreth station survey. Deadline 28th July so quick turnaround.</li> </ul>
<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Station News</b>
	<p>Concern about suggestion that manned ticket offices will be closed. Will need to keep a watching eye on any news on this but will need to ensure that we use the station as much as possible to demonstrate its value.</p>
<b>Item 7</b>	<b>AOB</b>

	None
<b>Item 8</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
	TBA