

	Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership Annual General Meeting held at Shepreth Wildlife Park																											
Date:	09 May 2023																											
Present:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Susan van de Ven (SvdV)</td> <td>CRP Chair and CCC Cllr for Melbourn and Bassingbourn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sarah Grove (SG)</td> <td>CRP Project Officer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Wakefield (PWa)</td> <td>Railfuture</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sarah Hatcher (SH)</td> <td>CCC (officer)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jay Clark (JC)</td> <td>SCDC (officer)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Chillingsworth (AC)</td> <td>GTR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martin Seiffarth(MS)</td> <td>Network Rail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roger James (RJ)</td> <td>Meldreth Parish Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rebecca Willers (RW)</td> <td>Shepreth Wildlife Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Sutton (PS)</td> <td>Treasurer, Community Interest Company</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beverly Cottrell (BC)</td> <td>Community Interest Company</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Matt Humphries (MH)</td> <td>Bruntwood</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Will Nichols (WN)</td> <td>Fowlmere Parish Council</td> </tr> </table>		Susan van de Ven (SvdV)	CRP Chair and CCC Cllr for Melbourn and Bassingbourn	Sarah Grove (SG)	CRP Project Officer	Peter Wakefield (PWa)	Railfuture	Sarah Hatcher (SH)	CCC (officer)	Jay Clark (JC)	SCDC (officer)	Andrew Chillingsworth (AC)	GTR	Martin Seiffarth(MS)	Network Rail	Roger James (RJ)	Meldreth Parish Council	Rebecca Willers (RW)	Shepreth Wildlife Park	Peter Sutton (PS)	Treasurer, Community Interest Company	Beverly Cottrell (BC)	Community Interest Company	Matt Humphries (MH)	Bruntwood	Will Nichols (WN)	Fowlmere Parish Council
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Item 1	Welcome, introductions and apologies																											
	<p>Apologies received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter MacDonald (CCC Cllr and Vice Chair of CRP) • Sally-Ann Hart (SCDC Cllr and Parish Councillor for Melbourn) • Nigel Strudwick (Whaddon PC) • Patrick Ladbury (Network Rail) • Tim Sparrow (Community Rail Network) • Paul Webster (Community Rail Network) 																											
Item 2	Election of officers: Chair, Vice Chair																											
	<p>Two positions were available for consideration, Chair and Vice Chair. PWa put forward the following nominations, which were unanimously agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Susan van de Ven • Vice Chair: Peter McDonald <p>SvdV extended thanks to SCDC for their support in facilitating the role of project officer</p>																											
Item 3	Annual Report																											

The report is to end of March 2023. SG summarised the Annual Report, which is structured around the pillars of the DfT Community Rail strategy.

Providing a voice for the community

Main focus around responding to any major consultations, infrastructure and access to the stations by foot and cycling

- *East West Rail* - has gone quiet at the moment
- *Foxton Travel Hub* - has also gone quiet
- *Melbourn Greenway* - involved through the non-motorised user group. Bringing more accessibility to the stations from the main corridors. Hoping that the Melbourn part of the Melbourn Greenway will be in place by end of 2024. Incorporates spurs off the A10 that go off to the railway stations
- *C3R* - been vocal in challenging some of the assumptions that have gone into the project. Have held NR to account and made voice heard regarding traffic issues
- *Cambridge South Station* - SG been to meetings on Cambridge South to discuss accessibility there. Scheme has broken ground with view to opening in 2025. Want all of our trains to stop there.
- Survey on Underpass

Promoting healthy and sustainable travel

- '*Try a Train*' - not been a huge year between engineering work, Covid, industrial action. Recent trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park as part of the 'Free to Feed' campaign. Lot of support on train from GTR staff. Really boosted families to travel with young children.

Bringing communities together, supporting diversity and inclusion

- Major thrust is on station gardening, really good support with tubs at Foxton and Shepreth and Meldreth, watering by DofE volunteers. At Meldreth, garden has been reinstated by Melbourn Veg Club. Snowdrops and daffodils have been planted and the area has been really transformed. Looking great now.

Supporting Social and Economic Development

- '*Enjoy the Great Outdoors*' promotion. Promotion around our part of line, social media campaign over summer, managed to weave in some extra blog posts.
- Also been working with other CRPs along line, around Art. Directing people to various museums, art installations along the line

Strengthening the Partnership

- *Melbourn 'Wonderpass'*. Signed in 200 people over 6 days of painting over Easter. Renovated a dark and dingy space to make it more friendly for those who use it.
- Have been re-accredited.

Financial section

- Peter Sutton - Core funding comes from GTR and parish councils. Have had additional grants for underpass for lighting and artwork. Indebted to SCDC for contributing to SG's role.

	<p><u>Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG has been to a lot of community rail events this year, organised by Network Rail, GTR, for example. They provide good inspiration to see what other people have done. • SvdV extended thanks to SG for all her work this year. So much of the CRP's work is about confidence. Message comes through really strongly. Another key feature is partnership and a lot of projects have hinged on partnership working. Eg with parish councils on C3R • Melbourn and Meldreth PCs contributed financially to Wonderpass project. • Foxton Garden Association independently helps maintain Foxton station pots • MH - Science Park did recent survey to gauge where people come from. Many people come from outside Cambridgeshire and use train so important to Science Park to help improve the links. • RW - 200 cars in Wildlife Park car park on a busy day, could have 700 people . 7-8% of people use discount on railway. Need to get up to 20% as overspilling into village. Would like to push the train numbers, as well as walking and cycling. • WN - general comments on how some of the communities not directly on line but very close could be encouraged to use rail and Greenways more, use Cambridge South as an interchange
Item 4	Line Action Plan for the current year
	<p><u>Passenger usage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovering broadly in line with national rail network • Leisure travel recovering very strongly <p>Also arranged around four pillars.</p> <p><u>Providing a voice for the community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will comment on EWR route when it is announced • Will comment on Foxton Travel Hub plans when available • C3R - want to make sure effective traffic measures are in effect if it goes ahead. • Always talking to GTR about timetable and aspiration to restore half hourly full day timetable back • Wonderpass ribbon cutting event. May 22nd. Refreshments. Everyone welcome. • Station adopters - May need help with form filling <p><u>Promoting healthy and sustainable travel</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still looking at accessible travel at Meldreth. Waiting on answer from Accessible for All. Pushing on path • Next station event June 11th. Active travel day to tie in with A10 cycle ride. Dr Bike to help with repairs and rep from eBike company. Hoping to have someone from Greenways team. • Work with schools on hold at moment, due to Covid. Hoping to work again with schools in near future.

	<p><u>Bringing communities together, supporting diversity and inclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with all gardening activities, DofE volunteers • Get try a train trip in diary. Cubs will be next trip. • Meldreth Bridge stencilling. Example at Alexandra Palace - schools might be more keen to be involved now after success of Wonderpass <p><u>Supporting Social and Economic Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great walks on website and on various apps. Circular walks from each station as well as station to station walks. Would like to get some longer walks on to website. • Working on an art trail with CRPs along Thameslink line. • Use of station buildings - still pursuing what can be done with the Shepreth Station building. Need for community facility in Shepreth. <p><u>Strengthening the Partnership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore possible extension to CRP. Could look down Cambridge line towards Hitchin. Once you get past Royston, a lot of the places are a lot bigger than our villages, not as similar to our stations. Other option is to extend within in South Cambridgeshire, eg Shelford, Whittlesford which have similar issues to ourselves. Have started conversation on it, need to cement. <p><u>Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GTR timetabling. Cambridge and Brighton alluded to as bucking trend in slow recovery, possibly due to presence of research offices in city which need people in five days a week. GTR have done some interesting research on the effect small adjustments to the timetable could make to services into Cambridge. • Cambridge North and Waterbeach (served by relocated Waterbeach station) will become important housing areas. Need to start planning services. If you look at current timetable, would be better for MSF trains to go through to Cambridge North and Waterbeach, making our services cross-city services and making efficient use of the railway. Would be a really good way of getting people out of cars in Cambridgeshire. Would need half hourly trains and Cambridge station is the problem. Should we be pushing this?
Item 5	Date of next meeting
	Date TBA.
Item 6	AOB