

## BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

### BCA COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 3 March 2008

Present: Arthur Taylor (Chair), Éva Culleton-Oltay,

Apologies:

#### Actions

#### 1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last Committee meeting were agreed.

#### 2. **Actions**

AT ran through actions.

#### 3. **Correspondence**

Items received:

- FCC Stakeholder News – Jan 08
- FCC Stakeholder Performance Update
- Your Journey
- East Midlands Rail – Future Newsletter

#### 4. **Treasurer's Report**

Accounts to be audited  
Balance as of mid Feb £1,538.00

Further to circulation of last Newsletter to non-rejoined members, 10 subsequently rejoined.

#### 5. **Communications**

Newsletter has gone out. We must cut down on the number of drafts.

Comments re Newsletter have gone to JA email instead of admin email (which goes to AT). No adverse comments. AT has replied and also updated everyone re AGM.

APTU's latest newsletter mentioned the BCA. AT to email their newsletter to Committee.

AT

Article in Beds on Sunday re the lack of support from Beds County Council over the proposed cuts in the EMT services from Dec 08. We need to keep pressure on EMT and MPs/Councillors. MP for Kettering has been briefed on our concerns.

Tom Wooton does not respond to emails and has not been to any Stakeholder meetings or other meetings that BCA has attended.

The timetable is generally finalised in July.

#### 6. **Performance**

Short formed FCC Thameslink. Generally, however, performance seems to be ok.

## **Timetable**

Moorgate closes Dec 08.

Blackfriars Bay closes Dec 08.

377's mainly on Brighton route will be used on 3 South Eastern services in evening peak from Bedford.

BF would like to pursue say, 1 train every 3 hrs with disabled toilets.

## **8. East Midlands Trains**

AT/AL met London Travel Watch and Passenger Focus. Paul Forward seems to have accepted everything EMT has told him. PF, Jerry Gold (London Travel Watch), Peter Lane (FCC) – no representative from EMT or DfT. AT mentioned seat reservations – Jerry said it didn't surprise him. Stagecoach policy seems to be to ignore Stakeholder groups. BCA outline our problems with peak 17.30 and that it would put more pressure on FCC services. EMT appears to be trying to put some of the blame onto FCC! We were told that 18.00 terminating at Kettering would be 5-car. AT asked Paul Forward if we could have Bedford non-stopper. The answer, as expected, was no. BCA concerned that EMT through these changes are trying to get customers to use FCC services.

EMT still hasn't filled the roll of Stakeholder Manager.

All MPs now on board that this is not good enough.

EMT comply with DfT specs on number of trains stopping at Bedford during both peaks.

EMT has not come back to AT with stopping diagrams out of St Pancras International.

EMT Meridians are failing regularly. AT to speak to Emma.

AT

## **9. Thameslink Programme/EWRL**

We are still waiting for Network Rail to get their plans sorted.

AT emailed presentation to Committee

## **10. Website**

We have had 3,900 hits (approx 1,300 per year).

## **11. Bedford Matters**

Car park ticket machines now operating and signs indicating tariffs are now correct. Cost on annual car parking season ticked has gone up by 12.5%.

BCA noticeboard has been moved – it is now more prominent. Clock above ticket sales has gone.

TV screens are good but dot matrix still problematic.

AT met Patrick Clements re the problem of the screens' contrast not being good (green on green).

There are two big display screens that show exactly the same information. PC wants different information shown, i.e. more trains would be shown. PC also wants an arrivals screen.

PI summary screen will be coming into operation.

AT asked re Focus. There is not short-term solution to the parking problem. Double yellow lines and clampers are now in operation to prevent people parking in the car park when no parking spaces are available.

There are no plans available yet on what they are going to do with Thameslink 2000.

**12. Flitwick Matters**

AT spoke to Patrick re screens. Screen on bridge got full up with water and has not been working. Problem is being looked at.

Ticket Office has been re-linod and painted.

There is still some painting left to do.

PC has asked for footbridge and platforms to be resurfaced.

Canopies will be started in August.

Car parking meeting at Flitwick. Restriction has come into force and it has proved BCA's point that parking filters outwards.

**13. AGM – Date/Venue/Speakers**

Possible dates for the AGM are:

13 May  
14 May  
20 May

The meeting will be at 19.30 at Dom Polski.

AT will ask EMT and FCC to come along.

AT

The next BCA Committee meeting will be on Mon 28 April.

Subsequent to the Committee meeting, the AGM has been booked for Tue 13 May at 19.30 at Dom Polski. Tim Shoveller, MD, EMT, is unable to attend. Jake Kelly, Customer Service Director will attend on his behalf.

**14. AOB**

None.