

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 5th September 2006

Present: Arthur Taylor Andrew Long
Mark Spurgeon Jim Allwood
Ben Foley

Apologies: John MacLeod Kerry Williamson (Passenger Focus)

It was intended that Kerry from Passenger Focus would attend to introduce herself, give a presentation and discuss any relevant topics, however she had been held up in Manchester and now intends to come to the next committee meeting.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on July 18th 2006 were agreed.

2. Actions

AT has still to speak to Dan re list of people to send newsletter to.

AL has responded to the EM Franchise consultation document outlining the BCA's view of the franchise.

JA has produced a membership renewal form incorporating payment by Direct Debit/Standing Order.

AT has spoken to FCC to arrange passes for Bedford and Flitwick stations for membership renewal.

AT has spoken to FCC to arrange use of Duty Managers Office on Platform 1 at Bedford station for forthcoming meeting with MML.

MS was still investigating ways of improving website and also the emailing problems in sending out newsletter.

3. Correspondence

Copy of the first edition of the FCC Stakeholder News received by email and post. Email copied to rest of committee. FCC required details of our website for inclusion on the FCC website. **MS would pass details to FCC.**

Annual Review from London Travelwatch received.

Letter from Beds County Council about approval of Willington Rowing Lake.

4. Treasurers Report

JA reported on the end of year balance. Income was £854, Expenditure £687.58, Balance £1K approx. No change was needed to membership fee which will stay at £5.

AT mentioned that membership renewal to BABUS was due, this being £10. **JA to arrange and send to Simon Norton.**

5. Communications

Media coverage continues to remain good.

JA reported that the September newsletter incorporating a membership renewal form had been posted out to members. Copies would be emailed out to Elaine Holt, local MP's, Kerry Williamson, APTU, BBRUA and Railfuture.

6. Performance

AT had received a copy of the National Rail Trends for the period April 2005 to March 2006. August 18th was declared a void day by FCC. Performance continues to be good on MML.

7. Timetable

FCC - AT to arrange a meeting with Paul French to discuss FCC 's ideas and for the BCA to let FCC know of their aspirations for the FCC timetable.

MML - AT reported that at the recently requested meeting with the BCA the December 2006 timetable changes will be discussed.

8. St Pancras TL Station Fit Out

The hoarding boards on the platforms have been taken down. Work has commenced on the fitout and the completion date is still December 2007.

Nothing to report on the actual 'box' fitout.

At the main St Pancras Station MML have now opened the new ticket office.

9. East Midlands Franchise

AT and AL will be attending the National Express Roadshow in London on 14th September.

AT will report back at the next committee meeting.

10. TL2K/EWRL

AT reported that the inspectors decision on the remaining planning elements of TL2K was still awaited. AL explained that the scheme if approved may be in two phases, pre Olympics and post Olympics. Continue to watch this space.

AT reported that the Willington Lake has been approved and would mean that the Bedford to Cambridge line east of Bedford will be cut.

11. Membership renewal

This will take place as follows:

Bedford	Tuesday 26 th September AM and PM
	Wednesday 27 th September PM
Flitwick	Thursday 28 th September AM and PM

Membership forms (3000 copies) have been printed. **AT would collect forms.**

JA would arrange with MS, BF and JM attendance at Bedford station evenings. AT would contact JM re Flitwick. AT/AL would do Bedford AM and Flitwick AM/ PM

12. Website

MS reported that he was still looking at improving the website.

13. Bedford Matters

AL reported that there may be a possibility of the Elstow Park & Ride bus being extended to the station.

14. Flitwick Matters

AT/AL had been to a Car Parking meeting, Larry Heyman attended from FCC.

It is anticipated that Plus Bus will commence from January 2007.

AT had emailed Karen Boswell re the state of the footbridge flooring and its possible safety implications.

15. Meeting with MML

AT reported that MML had asked for the meeting with BCA arranged for 18th September to be cancelled due to Simon Taylor not being available. Subsequently a new date of 18th October has been arranged.

16. AOB

AT reported back on a meeting with Kerry Williamson of Passenger Focus to discuss current issues which took place on 15th August at Bedford. Also in attendance was AL and Anthony Smith Chief Executive of Passenger Focus. The meeting mainly concentrated on the ticket restrictions and overcrowding issues. It was agreed that Kerry would arrange a meeting between all FCC user groups and local MP's to discuss all relevant issues prior to a meeting with FCC. It was stressed that we needed to keep the pressure up on FCC especially over the ticket restrictions. This meeting hopefully will be in early October. Kerry also asked of any improvements to stations that could be made and AL has duly sent a list to her.

There is to be a consultation at Bedford Station on 14th September re station facilities. AT will attend.

As a result of the announcement that TfL have ordered trains from Bombardier for Silverlink Metro services AT emailed Elaine asking if an add on order for trains to resolve our overcrowding problem was possible. She replied that she had met Bombardier on this matter and a further meeting with DfT was arranged for September 13th.

JA asked if a visit to West Hampstead Control Room was possible. **AT would investigate.**

17. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 6th November at Jim's house commencing at 19.45.