

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 10th March 2009

Present: Arthur Taylor Mark Spurgeon Jane Ramsell
John MacLeod Andrew Long

Apologies: Jim Allwood Eva Culleton-Oltay Ben Foley

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on January 20th 2009 were agreed.

2. Actions

AT replied to FCC with the BCA views of the recent increase in Car Park charges.

AT has responded to FCC, London Travelwatch and Passenger Focus on the proposed cuts to Ticket Office opening hours.

AT has booked Dom Polski for May 12th and invited FCC and EMT to the AGM.

3. Correspondence

Letter from Patrick Hall MP regarding the signing of the petition against the revised EMT timetable.

Letter from Nadine Dorries re the EWRL campaign.

Notification of the Railfuture East Midlands Branch AGM on Saturday 4th April 2009.

Results of the recent survey of Rail User Groups (BCA completed the survey) by Passenger Focus.

4. Treasurers Report

In the absence of JA AT reported a continuing healthy balance in this years account of £1792.17. Subs down £40 on last year.

5. Communications

AT reported continued interviews on local radio for the BCA and articles in both the BOS and T&C.

AL reported that the March newsletter was now complete and would be sent to JA for distribution. (subsequently JA has sent the March newsletter to members)

A further newsletter would be complete for end of April to further publicise the AGM. If anyone has something for inclusion into the April newsletter please contact AL.

6. Performance

FCC - recently some delays getting trains out of the siding in the morning have caused delay. Will continue to monitor the situation.

7. Timetable

FCC

AT read out the FCC Press Release for the launch of the March timetable and cascade of rolling stock for it. 8 x 377/2 from Southern, remaining 4 class 319's from Southern and deferring the 319 refurbishment programme and 2 x 317 from GN. Hopefully 2 of the new 377's will be available. It is hoped that by the end of the summer all the new 377's will have been delivered.

There will be an additional train from Farringdon at 18.16 for selected stations to Bedford. A hot spare train will be provided at Bedford in the morning peak which will operate the 07.44 if there is a shortage of rolling stock.

EMT

Since the meeting AT has received a final draft copy of the May EMT timetable which shows no changes to trains at Bedford. AT emailed copy of timetable to all committee members.

8. East Midlands Trains

AT reported that he had received a letter from David Horne Commercial Director EMT outlining a proposal regarding the 17.30 from St Pancras. AT/AL have had two meetings with London Travelwatch and Passenger Focus to discuss the proposal and a joint reply was agreed and subsequently sent to EMT on 27th February. As a result of EMT not being able to provide Loading Numbers on the Peak Trains the initial letter was amended and sent to EMT on the 4th March (copy of letters have been sent to committee members). As yet no response has been received from EMT. Patrick Hall is continuing his efforts with EMT. EMT have now received the three Pioneers from Hull trains. They have indicated that the 18.00 should be a 9/10 car Meridian from some time in March and also they are looking at the 16.30. We will need to monitor this situation.

AT said that he had been informed that EMT were no longer going to accept Groupsave tickets from Bedford. AT was awaiting Larry to report back as he was investigating . **AT to report back once information was available.**

9. Thameslink Programme

An invitation from FCC to attend a Thameslink Programme Stakeholders Event at Blackfriars on Monday 16th March 18.30 to 20.00 has been received. Subsequently three invitations were given. It was agreed that AT, JR and Eva would attend and report back at the next meeting. Resulting from this meeting a copy of the presentation by FCC was obtained and copied to all committee members.

10. AGM

19.30 at Dom Polski Tuesday May 12th.
All agreed to stand again:

Chairman	Arthur Taylor
Treasurer	Jim Allwood
Secretary	Eva Culleton-Oltay
Committee	Jane Ramsell, John Macleod, Mark Spurgeon, Ben Foley

All agreed that more committee members were needed and an appeal will made at the AGM.
AT to speak to Larry re Poster at stations.

11. Website

Nothing to report

12. Bedford Matters

AT/AL reported on the last Travel Plan meeting.

AL reported on the latest news from the Bedford Station Quarter Development.

13. Flitwick Matters

Lighting on the station has been renewed.

The toilets are locked out of use due to vandals. **AT to find out what is happening about reinstatement**

The new private car park is now being used with approx 40 cars parked each day, however there has been a corresponding drop in the usage of the FCC car park.

14. EWRL

AL reported that the East West Rail Consortium had recently produced a paper outlining the various routing options for the Central Section. AL will respond for the BCA.

15. AOB

JR raised the issue of the bad positioning of the CIS screens at Bedford. AT said that he had that day spoken to Larry about them and he was passing on the relevant information to the person concerned within FCC.

Patrick Hall MP will be meeting Lord Adonis (Transport Minister) to raise various concerns regarding the rail services provided at Bedford. AL will brief Patrick about the current situation with EMT prior to the meeting.

AT/AL will be attending the Passenger Focus Conference on April 22nd in London.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 28th April 2009 at John's house commencing at 19.30.