

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 18th November 2008

Present: Arthur Taylor Jim Allwood Mark Spurgeon
 John MacLeod Andrew Long

Apologies: Jane Ramsell Eva Culleton-Oltay Ben Foley

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on September 9th 2008 were agreed.

2. Actions

AT reported that further to the fact that FCC set the fares at Bedford and each individual TOC could set its own ticket restrictions.

3. Correspondence

Railwatch magazine

Invite from East Midlands Travelwatch to attend conference at Leicester on November 18th.

BCA would not attend as content was of no benefit.

FCC Customer October newsletter.

4. Treasurers Report

JA reported a continuing healthy balance in this years account of £1869.92. AT reminded all committee members to claim incidental expenses. The meeting agreed a rate of 20p/mile for petrol when attending meetings on behalf of the BCA.

5. Communications

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

The draft November Newsletter was discussed and agreed. Articles to include details of the December timetable changes, FCC Xmas period services, latest situation with EMT and the Thameslink Programme. Also attached will be the Thameslink Programme presentation by FCC. Final copy to JA by 30th November.

6. Performance

Generally OK. It was felt however that EMT performance was less reliable than MML. Also Buffet services on EMT are on occasions closed.

7. Timetable

AT gave a detailed breakdown of the changes to FCC services from December. Also he would be attending a meeting with Peter Lane FCC on December 10th to discuss the March 2009 timetable. APTU will also be attending the meeting.

There were no changes to the EMT timetable as set out earlier this year.

AT had received a letter from EMT asking for comments on their May 2009 timetable by December 5th. The meeting agreed what the BCA response would be. AT would write back and copy to all committee members.

8. East Midlands Trains

AT reported that the recent handing out of the petition on behalf of Patrick Hall went very well. Signed petitions were being returned. AL said that a meeting between Lord Adonis, Patrick Hall and Tim Shovellier had recently taken place to discuss the December timetable changes. We were still awaiting feedback on this. A presentation by EMT to the MML All Party group was scheduled for the end of November.

AT said that a new EMT contact had been established, Gareth Leslie Route Manager based at St Pancras.

9. Membership Renewal

Good take up. At present membership stands at 137.

10. Website

MS said he was looking at options for hosting the Website. MS would put the Thameslink Presentation on the Website.

11. Thameslink Programme

AT/AL will be attending the Thameslink Consortium meeting on November 20th. A report will be made at the next meeting.

The extension to Caudwell Road Depot will be opened during December.

12. Bedford Matters

AT reported on the last Travel Plan meeting which was more concerned with Bedford St Johns.

AL reported on the latest news from the Bedford Station Quarter Development. New proposals from Halcrow were awaited. Further meetings of the Working Party which AL attends on behalf of the BCA would take place.

13. Flitwick Matters

Nothing to report.

14. AOB

Last train to Moorgate event?

15. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 20th January 2009 at John's house commencing at 19.30.