

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 21 January 2008

Present: Arthur Taylor (Chair), Jim Allwood, Éva Culleton-Oltay, Ben Foley,
Andrew Long, John MacLeod, Jane Ramsell

Apologies: Mark Spurgeon

Actions

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 21 November were agreed.

2. Actions

AT spoke to Larry re car park ticket machines. Software work has been completed. J? mentioned that car park season tickets had been sent out late by NCP. This should no longer be a problem.

The new screens at Bedford need to be brighter – AT to follow-up with Larry. AT

The screen on the footbridge at Flitwick is still not working and the main summary screen in Bedford is still not good (bad contrast/colours). AT to speak to Larry. AT

3. Correspondence

Items received:

- Letter from Karen Boswell re FCC Fare and Car Parking rises.
- Note on CCTV being centralised at Enfield in March.
- Article by Alistair Burt in Times and Citizen re help from BCA in connection with St Pancras International
- Your Journey – Dec edition
- Request for Nominations for Rail Future London and South East Branch Committee
- Rail Watch – Dec edition
- FCC DVD of opening of St Pancras International Station
- Invitation from Living Streets to walk-in audits on 31 Jan
- FCC Stakeholder News – Jan 08

4. Treasurer's Report

Balance in account just over £1,500.
Income to date £380 against total of £985 last year.

5. Communications

Increasing membership – it was suggested we put an article in Times and Citizen or Beds on Sunday? AL to approach T&C/BOS. AL

AT to speak to Larry to get us back into the timetable. AT

Next Newsletter is due out soon. Possible items suggested were:

EMT trains
St Pancras International
Engineering works

Car parking at Flitwick
Signage/screens at Bedford

Beds on Sun article yesterday on Bedford customers not getting a fair deal. AL replied on behalf of BCA.

6. Performance

Total signal failure at Luton.

Amphill tunnel due for infrastructure work to enable trains to run through faster.

East Midlands trains – every train has been running at least 4-5 mins late. Either incorrect announcements or no announcements at all being made. Problems in the electrical supply affecting the lighting in the coaches – AT to contact them.

AT

During engineering works two trains per hour were running all stations from Bedford to St Albans then St Pancras and two per hour from Bedford to Hendon/Mill Hill Broadway with bus connections from then onward. The public announcements were not clear enough. Good announcements were being made at St Albans.

Engineering works taking place every weekend until 23 March. These are for Carlton Road Junction, renewing a bridge at Hendon and renewing drainage/re-laying track on slow lines at Belsize Tunnel.

7. Timetable

The 4-car units came across. Rail timetabling conference taking place in Feb to discuss Dec timetable.

8. St Pancras International Station

AT attended the official opening of the station. The event went very well. A few glitches have been observed: PIS system not say how many coaches, lifts not working and the signage is very poor.

9. East Midlands Franchise

AL/AT had meeting with Patrick Hall MP. AL/AT briefed him on all aspects of the problems with the timetable. PH was not happy and felt he had been misled by EMT. BCA had a disappointing meeting in Kettering with Tim Shoveller on 14 Jan and PH met Tim Shoveller on 18 Jan.

Summary of BCA meeting with Tim Shoveller:

- 06.45 from St Pancras International – we've asked for additional stop at Bedford. They said they would look at it.
- 17.30 from St Pancras International – EMT will not reinstate the Bedford stop. Peter Lane had meeting with EMT. From Dec 08, FCC will not provide additional train to cover the 17.30.
- At the consultation stage, all Stakeholder Groups requested that the present off-peak timetable be left as it is because it worked well.
- At present time, EMT are not flexible with the timetable. They will consider two trains stopping at Kettering in peak but refuse to do it in the off-peak.

AT to raise issue of seat reservations.

AT

10. Thameslink Programme/EWRL

AL/AT attended Thameslink consortium meeting in Nov. Network Rail gave a short presentation. Nothing new to report.

AT

Marston Vale to get 153s. Hopefully the Marston Vale line will be extended from Bletchley to Milton Keynes in Dec.

11. Website

Nothing to report.

12. Bedford Matters

AL attended meeting on Bedford Renaissance. No proposals made in relation to rail.

Noticeboard is still in same location but JA making progress on getting location swapped.

13. Flitwick Matters

Flitwick town centre redevelopment – the consultation finished in Dec and everyone appears to be against it.

As predicted, following the restrictions, car parking is rippling out.

Flitwick Action Group had meeting on 14 Jan. AL has been asked to join their Committee on transport matters.

14. AOB

3 people interested in visit to West Hampstead signal box.

The Committee agreed that we would renew membership of the Bedford Bus Users Group for another year. AL to pass renewal letter to JA.

AL/JA

Luton/Dunstable – funding still to be agreed for guided busway. The project may still end up as a light railway.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 19.30 on Monday 3 March 2008 at JA's house.