

# BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

## BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 25 October 2004

Present:                    Arthur Taylor                    John MacLeod  
                                 Dan Levene                        Jim Allwood  
                                 Christine Fellner

### 1. Minutes of Meeting on 31 August 2004

These were accepted.

### 2. Matters arising

There were none except as mentioned below.

### 3. Correspondence

- Neil Evans had written to say he had received his membership card without a stamp, so had had to pay a penalty as well as the missing postage. He would be sent a cheque for £1.77, to include 2 x 28p stamps.
- The SRA would be opening the new depot, and AT had been invited. We were to have a conducted tour later.
- Car parking at Flitwick was causing controversy. There were complaints about parking in nearby streets.
- Rail User and Railfuture magazines had been received.
- Silverlink had been awarded a 2-year franchise extension.
- The latest St Pancras News was available.
- There was a Disabled People's Protection Policy
- There was now a Flitwick kiosk selling various coffees, teas and other food and drink.
- A letter had been received from Martin Walter of Thameslink thanking us for our contribution at the meeting on 21 October.

### 4. Treasurer's Report

We had overspent in the last financial year, even when the cost of the new membership cards was spread out over 2 years. We had not spent money we did not have, but our spending did exceed the membership take. It was agreed we should use the remaining membership cards for known renewals, so as to spread the cost over 3 years, and return to paper forms for general handing out. We should keep the subscription at £3 for the moment, but be prepared to raise it as necessary. AT should be entitled to claim for "miscellaneous" telephone calls without needing to keep a record of each one (at present he is not claiming any).

The Newsletter should be emailed out where possible; JM's membership database could have its label-generating functions selectively disabled.

### 5. Communications

The next Newsletter would be put together this weekend. Ginny Chart has taken up with London Underground our concerns over sporadic closure of Kings X tube. The

expanded 63 bus service was performing very well. The partner's card was to be extended to December 2005. Online MML seat reservations were working fine. We should in the Newsletter solicit comments on the blockade.

#### 6. Performance

AT reported that the punctuality figures for the last published quarter showed MML with a success rate of 85.5%, TL with 74.4%. We were pleased with the MML improvements, though noted that leaf-fall season was beginning.

#### 7. Blockade

Performance had been surprisingly good. Recently the 8 25 out of Bedford had been held up because a preceding train had failed and been stopped at Kentish Town to transfer passengers. DL said he had been on that failed train, which had been the 7 25 out of Bedford. However, the 8 25 had arrived at St Pancras only about 20 minutes late. A letter was being written by us to Mr McNulty, the Minister of State for railways, about the fitting-out of the Thameslink "box".

#### 8. Thameslink Franchise meeting – feedback

AT handed out the note of our requirements/wishes on timetables, rolling stock, station facilities, fares, premium payments (by TL to SRA), TL2K and bus/rail interchange which had been given to Thameslink at the meeting on 21 October. It had been said that 377s might be used on the faster Bedford services, subject to being able to clear the core tunnels. (There has been a check, and they can.)

#### 9. MML meeting – feedback

We had expressed our total displeasure at the blockade alterations, but MML said their hands were tied. We had drawn their attention to the adverse comparison of Bedford with Luton/LAP.

#### 10. Membership Renewal review.

Thanks were expressed to all who had taken part in the membership activities.

#### 11. TL2000

The Transport Works Act is with the ODPM, but will be passed to the Department for Transport. The planning matters are proceedings. Blackfriars tube is to close for 2 years. Possibly there might be space to keep the Moorgate branch open if Farringdon is designed to allow this.

#### 12. Website

This needs updating, and there are some spelling errors. It should have put on it an application form on which members' friends can apply.

#### 13. AOB

Emails are all now redirected to JA for distribution, and he has agreed to keep the Bedford station notice board up to date.

DL asked if TOCs are private or public, as they do not figure in the Freedom of Information Act schedule of public organisations, but are open to judicial review.

Next meeting: Monday 10 January 2005 at 7 45 at CF's.