

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 4th September 2019

Present: Arthur Taylor Steve Floyd Martin James
Alison Crompton Howard Pile John Henderson

Apologies: Mark Spurgeon

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 6th June 2019 were agreed.

2. Actions

AT has raised the issue of Thameslink Expresses using Platform 1 in the evening peak. He is awaiting an answer. Thameslink will endeavour to do this – **Discharged**

HP/AC have sent an email to all members outlining the Passenger Benefit Fund and ask for ideas. - **Discharged**

AT has arranged Site Access for Membership Renewals – **Discharged**

Renewal Forms to be updated and 2500 copies printed – **Discharged**

Flitwick did not get funding. AT will email the DfT asking for an explanation why funding was not granted but granted at Cricklewood. AT emailed DfT 3 times and Rail Minister for explanation but received unsatisfactory replies – **Discharged**

Membership Cards – meeting agreed to switch to an electronic version - **Ongoing**

Membership Renewal Form - wording to be amended. Amended - **Discharged**

Suggestions for the way forward – **Ongoing JH/AC/HP**

3. Correspondence

Railwatch July 2019 edition

End of Franchise report from EMT.

4. Treasurers Report

SF reported that he is finalising the end of year accounts ready to send to the Auditor.

5. Communications

October Newsletter being prepared at the present time. Let AT know of any article to be included.

AT was interviewed by BBC Look East regarding lack of Access to Flitwick station.

Need to consider using Facebook/Twitter. Will discuss at the next committee meeting.

6. Performance

All agreed that Performance/Reliability of the timetable continues to improve and is now back to pre - May 2018 timetable changes. However infrastructure failures south of the river are still a concern and recently issues north of the river have occurred. These were the loss of overhead wires due to hot weather and Disaster Friday when due to a national grid outage 30

class 700's were stranded and had to be restarted manually which caused major disruption. A report is expected on why this happened and how to stop it happening again.

7. Timetable

Thameslink

AT reported that there were no changes affecting Bedford or Flitwick in the December timetable change. Major changes are expected in December 2020. Meetings to discuss the December 2020 changes are being arranged.

EMT

AT reported that like Thameslink there were no changes affecting Bedford or Flitwick in the December timetable change. Major changes are expected in December 2020 with the reintroduction of Peak stops at Luton and Bedford and the introduction of electric services and a major recasting of their timetable. Meetings to discuss the December 2020 changes are being arranged.

8. GTR

AT met the new Managing Director for Thameslink/Great Northern Tom Moran on 9th July for an introductory meeting.

AT reported that the BCA had responded with ideas for the Passenger Benefit Fund and explained what these ideas were. The next stage of the process will involve evaluating the ideas, agreeing what ideas to take forward and then get them approved by the DfT. Individual stakeholder will then be informed for further comment if required.

9. East Midlands Railways

AT attended the launch of the new Franchise and had informal talks with a number of the senior Managers. AT then met with EMR managers on 26th July to reiterate the BCA views on the proposed December 2020 timetable, the refurbishment of the class 360's, journey times and the mtce of the class 360's. Further meetings are anticipated.

10. Thameslink Programme

Nothing to Report. A new meeting date is awaited, probably during July.

11. Website

Nothing to Report.

12. EWRL

JH reported that the announcement of the preferred route from Bedford to Cambridge was expected by the end of the year. He also reported that any delay to HS2 could have knock effects to the EWRL.

13. Bedford Matters

AT reported back on the meeting with Joe and Bernadette on 11th June with issues raised by the committee.

AT reported back on the Station Travel Plan meeting held on 24th June. Items included loss of Dr Bike from the station, the BDM to SAC crp, class 230's, Community Gardening Day, cycle thefts and count, Bromham Road Bridge and the Passenger Benefit Fund.

14. Flitwick Matters

AT received a reply from the Transport Minister regarding the failure to get funding for AFA which was disappointing and added nothing to previous letters to the DfT A petition has been started for AFA which the Chairman has signed.

15. MML CRP

AT reported back on the meeting held on 20th August. The next meeting will be on 5th November.

16. Membership Renewal

AT and AL will undertake membership renewal at Bedford AM and Flitwick AM & PM. AT/JH/MS/SF will undertake membership renewal at Bedford PM.

17. AGM

Monday 4th November at the RAFA Club commencing at 19.30. Tom Moran MD Thameslink & GN, Julien Edwards MD EMR and a NR representative will be in attendance. All Officers and Committee members agreed to carry on for a further year.

AT would forward the Chairman's report, Treasurers report, Agenda and 2018 AGM minutes to AC/HP. AC/HP would send out to all members and arrange printing of a few copies for the night.

18. AOB

None

19. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 27th November 2019 at Alison's house commencing at 19.30