

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 24th January 2019

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

Apologies:

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 25th September 2018 were agreed.

2. Actions

AT reported that from May 2019 4tph will run on both Saturday and Sunday - **Discharged**

AC arranged printed copies of 2017 Minutes, Treasurers report, Chairmans report and Agenda. – **Discharged**

AT wrote to all local MP's asking that they lobby the government to freeze the 2019 fares increase. – **Discharged**

3. Correspondence

Railwatch October 2018 and December 2018.

4. Treasurers Report

SF presented the latest Accounts. There were no issues.

Membership Cards – meeting agreed to switch to an electronic version. **Action AC/HP**

Membership Renewal Form - wording to be amended **Action HP**

5. Communications

Next Newsletter to be sent out in March.

6. Performance

Performance/Reliability of the timetable continues to improve but further improvement required. Skip Stopping still an issue. AT to raise at the next TLP Steering Group meeting.

Action AT

MJ asked if Driver changes were still made in the core and at peak times (since the meeting AT has found out that at present driver changes are still made but they will decrease over time).

7. Timetable

Thameslink

Concern was expressed that since the December timetable some TL Express services have been using Platform 2 instead of 1. This caused congestion at the stairs onto the footbridge. AT to investigate. – **Action AT**

AT explained the Thameslink North Demand Review that had been undertaken for changes to the timetable in May and December 2019 to alleviate timetable issues at Harpenden. Of the 3 Options put forward the meeting agreed that Option 1 & 2 would not significantly affect Bedford which we would support but Option 3 would significantly affect Bedford so the BCA would not agree or support it. AT was awaiting a date to discuss the review.

EMT

AT reported that he would be meeting EMT to discuss the BCA/APTU priorities for restoring peak stops at Bedford and Luton ON January 29th.

8. GTR

AT and JH reported back on the Stakeholder Conference held on November 27th.

9. East Midlands Trains

AT reported back on the Stakeholder Conference held on December 4th.
The successful Bid for the new Franchise is still due to be announced in April 2019.
AT met Duncan Cale on October 24th. There is a new Train Planning Manager – Craig Leaper. Electrification work is on schedule. AT outlined the BCA view on a Contingency Plan if electric trains are unable to run from December 2020.
AT to met EMT on January 29th to discuss the ongoing issues with the timetable.

10. Thameslink Programme

AT attended a TLP Meeting on October 18th. Discussed was ongoing issues with the timetable, Operational Issues, Compensation and Communication.
Another meeting will be held on January 30th.

11. Website

Nothing to Report.

12. EWRL

JH reported that a Consultation on the proposed routes from Bedford to Cambridge will be held between January and March. AT will respond for the BCA.

13. Bedford Matters

AT/MS reported back on the meeting with Joe held on January 11th. Issues discussed were the deep clean of the toilets, performance of the refurbished lifts, TVMs, Car Park flooding remedial work, Car Park TVM litter, and Slippery floors.

14. Flitwick Matters

Work on the new Waiting Room on Platform 1 has still not started, the latest date is now in the New Year.

Thameslink has put in a Bid for AFA (lifts and new bridge). It will be April before we know if it has been successful.

15. MML CRP

JH attended the inaugural meeting of the MML CRP (AT could not attend) and gave a report back.

16. AOB

There is still no news on the Wixams station.

Bromham Road Bridge work will commence in early March.

All Xmas engineering work completed on time.

Electric gantries have been erected north of Bedford station to the Bromham Road Bridge.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 2nd April 2019 at Alison's house commencing at 19.30