

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 27th November 2019

Present: Arthur Taylor Steve Floyd Martin James
Alison Crompton Howard Pile Mark Spurgeon
Courtney Lee

Apologies: John Henderson

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 4th September 2019 were agreed.

2. Actions

Membership Cards – meeting agreed to switch to an electronic version - **Ongoing**
Suggestions for the way forward – **Ongoing JH/AC/HP**

3. Correspondence

Railwatch October 2019 edition

4. Treasurers Report

SF reported that there was £1956.19 in the Bank. The cost of the RAFA Club for the AGM was £50. SF will contact the Beds Life magazine to enquire about a piece about the BCA in the magazine. **Action SF**

5. Communications

December Newsletter being prepared at the present time. Let AT know of any article to be included. Expected to be distributed to members in early December.

6. Performance

Concern was expressed at the continuing instances of Infrastructure failures and trespass on the railway causing delays. Thameslink are training staff on suicide prevention. AT reported that the infrastructure work on the BML was due for completion by the end of November. It has been noted that on a number of occasions TL Express services have been switched from the fast line to the slow due to late running.

7. Timetable

Thameslink

AT outlined the proposals for the December 2020 timetable. The main change is that due to the reinstatement of EMR services to Bedford at peak times the Thameslink Express services will revert to their original stopping patterns increasing journey times by approx. 7/8 minutes. A copy of the draft timetable has since been distributed In Confidence to committee members.

EMR

AT reported that the December 2020 Timetable Consultation had been published and would run until 14th February 2020. Copies of the document have been circulated to committee members. AT summarised the main proposals of the timetable that would affect Bedford. The committee discussed the BCA response. The main points for the response were agreed and AT would draft the formal response for agreement at the next meeting. **Action AT**
Any further points for inclusion to be sent to AT by the middle of January. **Action All**
AT will be meeting Laura in early December for further discussions on the proposals and will raise the need for a Consultation event in Bedford and the need to speak to travellers who use MK instead of Bedford. **Action AT**

8. GTR

AT reported that the initial schemes for the Passenger Benefit Fund had been published subject to agreement of the DfT. There will be 2 tranches with Bedford in tranche 1 and Flitwick tranche 2. The schemes were discussed. The first scheme at Bedford will be refurbishment of the toilets, however there is no start date at present.
AT reported back on the meeting with Railfuture to discuss the next franchise. Railfuture has produced a draft document which was discussed and a further amended document will be published early next year for comment.

9. East Midlands Railways

AT has met with Laura to discuss issues affecting Bedford including the December 2020 timetable, class 360 cascade timetable, class 360 refurbishment and reinstatement of peak services. The refurbishment will be in 3 Phases, Phase 1 re-gear for 110 mph running, Phase 2 internal refurbishment and Phase 3 external refurbishment. Reinstatement of peak services will start from December 2020. Further meetings to discuss timetable issues will take place.

10. Thameslink Programme

AT attended a meeting on 13th September. Items discussed were improvements to London Bridge station - additional seating, bus signage and feasibility study into additional toilets. The changes to the December 2019 were outlined but do not affect Flitwick or Bedford. Nothing to Report. A new meeting date is awaited, probably during July. Major improvements to Gatwick Airport station starting next year for 3 years.
The next meeting will be on December 16th.

11. Website

The meeting discussed improving the website. CL & MS will look into improvements and report back at the next meeting. **Action CL/MS.**

12. EWRL

Nothing to Report.

13. Bedford Matters

AT reported back on the Station Travel Plan meeting held on 29th October.

AT reported that Bromham Road Bridge had been demolished and the new bridge put in place. Consequently the 200+ car parking spaces taken out of use will be restored in early December. The bridge is still on schedule for completion next spring.

AT has reported that the car park flooding again, however the gullies are to be cleaned and all rubbish, leaves etc removed once the car park is fully reopened

The ticket gates are becoming unreliable, car park markings need redoing and provision of mats in wet weather is still needed. AT to raise with Berni. **Action AT**

There is a water refill point in Starbucks.

14. Flitwick Matters

Platform 1 Waiting Room fault affecting the Heating and Lighting has been repaired. We now await a CIS.

There is a water refill point at Cravens.

15. MML CRP

AT reported back on the meeting held on 5th November. At present the CRP is being set up but there have been a number of community events.

16. Membership Renewal

All agreed the membership renewal went well.

17. AGM

All agreed the AGM went well and was well attended. Agreed having both TOC MD's at the meeting went down well with many questions asked.

18. AOB

Premium fares.

Lack of Carnets at Flitwick.

Revenue checks on trains.

19. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 29th January 2020 at Alison's house commencing at 19.30