

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 29th January 2020

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

Apologies: Mark Spurgeon

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 27th November 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**

AT has produced draft response to the EMR December 2020 Timetable which was agreed.

AT informed the meeting the response would be a joint response with APTU. **Discharged**

AT said that he had been informed that there would be no consultation event in Bedford and travellers who use MK instead of Bedford would not be consulted. **Discharged**

Improving the website **Ongoing CL/MS**

AT raised with Berni the car park marking and provision of wet weather mats. **Discharged**

3. Correspondence

Railwatch December 2019 edition

4. Treasurers Report

SF reported that there was £1845.34 in the Bank. SF had contacted the Beds Life magazine to enquire about a piece about the BCA in the magazine. The committee agreed to proceed and asked SF to arrange. **Action SF**

5. Communications

Next Newsletter will be in March. Let AT know of any article to be included.

AT was interviewed by BBC Look East regarding the Fare Rise.

6. Performance

It was noted that infrastructure failures were still an issue south of the river. North of the river there have been instances of poor regulation on southbound services where late running EMR services have been given priority over Thameslink services. AT asked that any delay details are passed to him.

7. Timetable

Thameslink

AT has responded to Thameslink on the proposed changes which are welcomed in combination with EMR changes. The only issue is the starting of 2 AM peak services at Flitwick which we have asked to be started back from Bedford.

EMR

The committee agreed the draft BCA response as outlined at the last meeting. AT reported that the December 2020 Timetable Consultation response will be a joint response with the APTU. AT would liaise with the APTU.

8. GTR

AT reported that he had met with the PBF Project Manager at both Bedford and Flitwick (site visits) to discuss the list of ideas and the BCA view on these and their priorities. AT emailed a summary of these discussions to the Project Manager and committee. These will be further evaluated and assessed before they are forwarded to the DfT for agreement.

9. East Midlands Railways

AT met with Laura on 16th December. Issues discussed were December 2020 timetable consultation, cascade of class 360's Kings Cross Blockades in January and February and the effects on EMR services, closure of SP gateline 2 minutes before a train departure, HST cascade from LNER and the class 180 cascade from Hull Trains.

Laura informed us that Julien Edwards would be returning to Abellio head office at Christmas and would be replaced as MD by Will Rogers from 2nd January 2020.

10. Thameslink Programme

AT attended a meeting on 16th December. Items discussed were continuing improvements to London Bridge station, update of work due to commence in May 2020 at Gatwick Airport, Norwood Junction station redevelopment consultation by NR, engineering work at Purley over the Christmas period, Kings Cross infrastructure work, and performance.

11. Website

CL/MS are continuing to discuss improvements to the website.

12. EWRL

Nothing to Report.

13. Bedford Matters

The CIS on platform 2 was not working and puddles were again forming in the car park after heavy rain. AT would speak to Berni.

BBC has published its Pail Strategy document which can be found on its website.

14. Flitwick Matters

Nothing to report.

15. MML CRP

Nothing to Report.

16. AOB

A discussion took place regarding surveys of members on good/bad things the committee were doing and suggestions for improvements and why ex members lapsed their membership. **AC/HP/CL agreed to look at this idea.**

As a result of the Kings Cross blockades on 25/26 January and 29Feb/1 March EMR services at Bedford would only be those for Corby, passengers for north of Kettering will need to change at Kettering. London bound passengers will only be allowed to use Thameslink services.

From now until June on many weekends engineering work will be taking place to ensure that the MML electrification is completed and fit for purpose.

17. Date of Next Meeting

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