

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 2nd April 2007

Present: Arthur Taylor Andrew Long
 John MacLeod Jim Allwood

Apologies: Mark Spurgeon Ben Foley

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on February 5th 2007 were agreed.

2. Actions

Newsletter sent out by JA in early March.

AL wrote a further letter to the DfT outlining the views of the BCA on the East Midlands Franchise.

3. Correspondence

A copy of Railwatch has been received.

A copy of Train Times has been received.

Invitation to launch of Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership on 4th April has been received. No one from the committee was available to attend.

Two letters from Patrick Hall MP received.

4. Treasurers Report

JA reported a continuing healthy balance in this years account.

Last years accounts have now been audited.

Renewal of membership to Railfuture agreed. **JA to arrange payment**

5. Communications

AT has been on local radio recently regarding a report by Passenger Focus on station facilities.

It was agreed that an email shot to members reminding them of the AGM would be sent out in early May. **JA would arrange.**

It was agreed to add Peter Lane to the newsletter mailing list. **AT would let JA know his email address.**

6. Performance

Nothing to report.

7. Timetable

FCC - AT and the APTU attended a meeting with Hugh Clancy and Paul French to discuss timetabling issues. For the May 2007 timetable change two options were looked at
(i) transferring 2 x 317's from GN to provide extra capacity or
(ii) rejigging the present timetable to make 2 319's available to strengthen services
After a discussion the preferred option was number (i). Subsequently the BCA was informed that 2 x 317's were to be transferred to allow the following services to be made 8 cars: 07.42 Bedford to Moorgate and the 08.20 Bedford to Brighton. In the evening the 17.14 and 18.16 Moorgate to Bedford services will be 8 car.
For December 2007 FCC are looking at the Sunday service. The BCA/APTU views were expressed and FCC have taken these away. Further meetings on this are planned.
Finally the timetable for December 2008 when Moorgate/Blackfriars terminating bays are closed is being drawn up. More details are to follow at future meetings.

MML - Nothing to report.

8. St Pancras TL Station Fit Out

St Pancras Thameslink station will open on December 9th 2007 to coincide with the December timetable change.

9. East Midlands Franchise

We await the July announcement of the winner.

10. Thameslink Project/EWRL

Thameslink Project : we await the funding decision probably in July 2007.

EWRL : High hopes for the western section i.e. Oxford to Milton Keynes.

11. Website

Nothing to report as MS was not at the meeting.

12. Reports Back

Meeting with Patrick Clement : AT met Patrick Clement Station Services Manager for Bedford/Flitwick/Harlinton. Discussed station facilities at Bedford/Flitwick. Bedford toilets refurbishment completed and new automatic sliding doors are to be fitted at Bedford within two weeks. Opening times of waiting rooms agreed especially on Platform 5. Agreed to be opened 20/30 minutes before arrival of first train. State of Flitwick footbridge raised. Further meetings are planned.

Meeting with Passenger Focus 21/03/07 : AT met with Guy Dangerfield who has temporarily taken over from Kerry Williamson for approx 18 months. Notes of this meeting have been emailed to committee members.

Meeting with BABUS 03/03/07 : AT/AL met Colin Franklin to discuss issues at Bedford and Flitwick with Buses. Further meetings are planned.

13. AGM

Venue Dom Polski on Wednesday 16th May commencing at 7.45pm.

Elaine Holt and Garry Raven will attend from FCC and MML.

Nominees agreed:

Chairman Arthur Taylor
Treasurer Jim Allwood
Membership John MacLeod
Press Officer Andrew Long
Committee Mark Spurgeon
 Ben Foley

More committee members are urgently required.

AT to provide JA with copy of last years AGM minutes/Chairmans Report/Agenda for him to arrange copies for the night (suggest 50 copies)

AT to liase with Larry Heyman re poster advertising the AGM at Bedford and Flitwick stations.

14. Bedford Matters

Toilets are now open.

Provision of automatic sliding doors commenced.

15. Flitwick Matters

David Byrne Head of Property FCC has confirmed that repairs/redecoration of the footbridge should be completed this year 2007/2008.

Consultation about Commuter Car Parking has taken place. AT/AL are not happy with what is proposed, it does not solve the problem only move it around. Further updates will be given when information is available.

16. AOB

AT attended the naming of 319 435 Adrian Jackson Robbins, Chairman of APTU .

ATM's at Bedford/Flitwick have been renewed and are operated by Card Point. However a charge per transaction of £1.85 is made. AT has spoken to FCC indicating our total opposition to this charge.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 4th June 2007 at John's house **commencing at 19.15.**