

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 25 April 2005

Present: Arthur Taylor John MacLeod
 Jim Allwood Andy Lowe
 Mark Spurgeon Christine Fellner

Apology: Dan Levene

1. Minutes of Meeting on 28 February 2005

These were accepted.

2. Matters arising

There were none

3. Correspondence

*John Smith from LTUC had complained to the Borough Transport Commission about not being invited (nor were we)

*George Atkinson OBE says he thinks he has heard that KXT is being brought forward to 2007-8

*There is not to be a footbridge from Bedford Central (the new estate beyond the station on the Allen site) to the station yard

*£2.5m has been budgeted for a station at the Wixams, says an article in a railway periodical. This is Elstow. It is to be a 4-platform station.

*An email has been received from Robert Solly who is upset at the lack of a fast train arriving between 8 and 8.20am

*A Harpenden lady wants a season ticket to cover only three days a week. She has been referred to APTU.

4. Treasurer's Report

Nothing to report.

5. Communications

DL had been on Three Counties radio, talking about the General Election and transport. He would be sending out the *Newsletter* that had been stalled. There had been a request that we should provide a quiz team for 19 June.

6. Performance

MML for the quarter to December 2004 was on time 85.3% of the time. TL in peak 75%, off-peak 81%.

7. Blockade

It had been confirmed that this would finish on time by 16 May, though TL would not get the tunnel back until 9 May.

8. Timetables

There were not yet enough trained drivers for the new timetable, and trains would be stopping at Kentish Town to take on and drop off pilots. AT handed out a new timetable from 12 June, using 67 4-car units. This was not to be put up at Bedford until it was due to start. MS was not pleased that the 7 10 was not being put back again to 7 20. The MML 16 08 out of St Pancras would terminate at Bedford, as part of an experiment for half-hourly stops in the evening.

9. 2005 AGM

It seemed that turn-out had been better this time.

10. Thameslink/Great Northern franchise

TL are excluded from the new franchise. Committee members had seen, or were hoping to see, the contenders: National Express (Dominic Booth), First Group, Laing Rail (Robin Etherington), EWS (in which there is a Danish interest) and Stagecoach (who want to bring up bus/rail integration). They are all to be shown the “aspirations” we showed TL.

11. TL2000

The planning inquiry was to be reinstated on 2 September.

12. Website

There had been 390 hits since the beginning of February 2005. MS would update it.

13. Bedford matters

*BCA notice board **still** not repaired.

*It was suggested there should be peak-hour access to platform 4.

14. Flitwick matters

The bridge scaffolding was still in place and there was still no toilet.

15. AOB

AL would continue to pursue Alistair Burt MP. AT would inquire further about a depot visit for members.

Next meeting: Monday **27 June** 2005 at 7 45 at CF's.