

# BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

## BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 26 April 2004

Present:                    Arthur Taylor                    Christine Fellner  
                                  Chris Fox                         Mark Spurgeon  
                                  Dan Levene                      Jim Allwood

1.       Minutes of Meeting on 1 March 2004

These were accepted.

2.       Matters arising

There were none.

3.       Correspondence

AT reported miscellaneous correspondence received, including Rail User, Railwatch and a press release from LTUC which mentions improving West Hampstead Thameslink station.

4.       Treasurer's Report

JA reported that he had received custody of the accounts documents from CF. She would write to notify the bank of her resignation and JA's election. JA would forward the bank mandate when he had verified his identity. It was resolved that NatWest plc would be requested to continue as the Association's bankers, and otherwise in accordance with the wording of the mandate. The only change to the authorised signatories would be to substitute JA for CFox.

5.       Performance

In the quarter to 31 12 03, TL's percentage punctuality achievements were 72.5 off-peak and 66.9 peak (both up slightly from the previous quarter). MML's figure was 67.2.

The Flitwick covered car parking would be closed by Thameslink. This was for commercial reasons, insufficient use, and trouble with local youths (both local residents and the police had complained).

6.       Communications

DL was preparing another Newsletter, for dispatch following the weekend of 8/9 May. AT asked for it to contain an invitation for feedback about the new St Pancras interim station, opened over Easter.

Feedback from committee members was that the signage was not very good, more contrast was needed; the screens on the entrance floor were not well-placed, and the bus stops were not clearly signposted – the 63 bus stop was back round the bend of Pancras Road.

#### 7. Timetables

There would be a new TL timetable from 23 May until mid-September when the blockade starts. JA wondered why BCA concerned itself with off-peak services, since these did not bother commuters, but AT pointed out that we had always felt a responsibility to all rail users. The blockade timetable was still not quite settled. If it was intended to start the off-peak period earlier, this might cause inconvenience to commuters, and ought only to be temporary.

An MML leaflet indicated that the new Meridian trains would be introduced progressively from June.

#### 8. Blockades

The main blockade is now expected to last 35 weeks, instead of the original 26, because of the stringent controls placed on contractors for the benefit of local residents.

There would be a West Coast main line closure for the whole of Whitsun week, and buses were meant to be provided to bring Milton Keynes and Bletchley commuters to Luton Airport Parkway. This had been sprung on TL without warning, and no-one was happy about it.

The new maintenance facility is still on target to be completed by 10 September.

#### 9. Website

Nothing to report.

#### 10. AGM review

Mark Causebrook and Ginny Chart had been pleased by the increased attendance.

It was decided not to lay on food at all next year, as attenders did not seem very interested, and crisps and nuts could be bought at the bar if people wanted them.

#### 11. Thameslink 2000/EWRL

Nothing to report.

#### 12. AOB

It was confirmed that DL should pursue talks with AMT about discounted prices for BCA members.

AL had observed that resignalling of the Bedford/Bletchley line was being criticised for costing £2m a mile, but nothing was said about the £21m per mile for dualling the A421.

Appreciation was expressed of AL's work in collecting and disseminating information, but there was again regret that he wrote to outside periodicals and organisations as if he spoke for the BCA and with the committee's authority, when he did not. There was no objection to his stating that he was a committee member, but it was not acceptable to represent himself as speaking for the Association without referring back first.

13. Next meeting

Monday 28 June at 7 45 at CF's