

Friends of the Derwent Valley Line

Minutes of Open Meeting, Tuesday 19th July 2016, Brunswick Inn, Derby

Present: John Weaver (Chairman), Chris Darrall (Secretary), Ian Ambrose, Stuart Smith, Alastair Morley, David Willmott, Robin Lumb, Harry Bird, Ernie Marchant, Patrick Rigby, Steve Jones, Ariadne Tampion

Apologies: Paul Mobbs, Gary Purdy, David Rayner, Roger Clarke.

Minutes of last meeting on 19th April 2016

These were ACCEPTED.

Current Train Service

The current service was mainly good, although punctuality seemed to have diminished lately. There were still overcrowding problems, particularly on Saturdays when trains were operated with only a single car. The main line service at Belper is good, although needs to be increased!

Belper Station Access

From May, parking enforcement was introduced at Belper by London & Scottish Property Management on behalf of the site owners, requiring vehicles to display a permit to park in the area. Nobody in the rail industry was aware of this, and one of the Belper station adopters had already received a ticket while working at the station. The CRP has raised this with the LSPM and subsequently had a phone conversation with Adam Jennings of LSPM. They would not display signs allowing pick up/drop off at the station but Mr Jennings would not expect VCS to issue tickets to people who were legitimately doing this. They were not prepared to provide any permits to anyone else as issuing additional permits creates control difficulties with the parking area.

LSPM was concerned regarding opposition from 'the council' (Mr Jennings did not say which council – AVBC or DCC) in dealing with the trees both on King Street and pollarding those in the alley from King Street to the station (these latter trees impact on lighting when it is on). It is clear that LPSM have become increasingly frustrated with delays and uncertainties (in their opinion) which are not of their making. It was difficult to discuss ways to work proactively and positively to improve the area including lighting and access improvements, given LPSM concerns with the area. Whilst they would be prepared to do this, Mr Jennings asked what would be in it for them.

East Midlands Trains Franchise Renewal

Alastair has produced a paper setting out the CRP's aspirations for the next East Midlands rail franchise from June 2018. He intended to finalise it for the September

meeting of the partnership, so would welcome any comments before then.

Derby Station Upgrade

The chairman expressed concern at rumours of a 79 day shutdown at Derby station for remodelling during the Summer of 2018. It had not been possible find out any further details. Ian Ambrose suggested some of the work could be brought forward to winter of 2017/18.

Update from Community Rail Partnership

The construction of a terraced sleeper bed, and planting work at Ambergate has now been completed. This was a massive project under taken by Matty Maternaghan from EMT station service team, assisted by his colleague Kevin Knight and also by Paul Mobbs and Alastair Morley.

At Matlock Bath, station adopters have completed work to remove overgrown trees next to the station and replant shrubs to complement artwork installed.

The promotional map for Platform 2/3 waiting room has been delivered, and is not awaiting installation.

At Whatstandwell, Alastair is working with DCC staff to determine a suitable option for lighting on the footpath.

Thanks were expressed to Alastair and Matty for their work.

Any other Business

The PA at Cromford is inaudible, and the speakers need re-positioning and the volume increasing. Complaints have been made to EMT, but nothing has been done yet.

Future Meetings

The next meeting (which will be the Annual General Meeting) will be held on:
Tuesday 25th October, 2016.

All meetings will all be held at the Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby, commencing at 17.20