**Friends of the Derwent Valley Line**

**Minutes of Open Meeting, Tuesday 25th April 2017, Brunswick Inn, Derby**

**Present:** John Weaver (Chairman), Chris Darrall (Secretary), Alastair Morley, David Willmott, John Morrisey, Patrick Rigby, Roger Jackson, Ernie Marchant, Mike Hancocks, Ian Clark, Ariadne Tampion (Rail Future), Steve Jones (Rail Future)

**Apologies:**  Paul Mobbs, David Rayner, Harry Bird, Paul Wright, Roger Clark, Ian Ambrose, Robin Lumb.

**Minutes of last meeting on 17th January 2017**

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|  | These were ACCEPTED. Noted that the PA at Cromford has not yet been re-located, and is still inaudible. |  |

**Current Train Service**

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|  | The current train service has been fairly good of late, although overcrowding, particularly on Saturdays is still a problem.There has been a problem with the ticket machine and CIS screen at Matlock, although it is thought the ticket machine has now been fixed. The CIS screen is awaiting replacement.A complaint has been received that PA announcements for early trains are not being made at Ambergate; investigation reveals that EMT policy it not to make announcements at any stations on the line before 07.00, to avoid disturbing residents.There was a plea for a later train in the evenings, leaving Derby after the arrival of the London train at 22.24. Later evening services are one of our aspirations for the new franchise.In the May 2017 timetable, 2 additional services each way are to be introduced on Sundays. The first will leave Derby at 07.56 to Matlock, returning at 08.38 to Derby and Nottingham. In the afternoon an extra train to Matlock will leave Nottingham at 16.23 returning from there at 17.42 to Derby and Nottingham. |  |

**East Midlands Trains Franchise Renewal**

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|  | There has been no further announcement regarding the new franchise. DfT has said that public consultation will be announced “soon”. It is anticipated that the new franchise will begin in October or November 2018, although this may slip further. There are 3 operators in the running: Arriva, First Group and Trenitalia (Italy), and Stagecoach. |  |

**Update from Community Rail Partnership**

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|  | The surfacing of the path between the EMT station and Ecclesbourne Valley Railway at **Duffield** has been completed. Options to improve the platform areas are being investigated, and a scheme to install sections of decking on part of the gravel area, with planters in between, is being considered.ACoRP has agreed funding, which will be available, for improving the footpath and lighting at **Whatstandwell**, and install innovative point to point lighting, have generally been favourable, and the project is being developed. Discussions have been held with Network Rail regarding access for maintenance to the lamp column that illuminates the footbridge and the path below the canal. Hopefully agreement has been reached to enable this to remain operational.There was no further news regarding a replacement for the footpath crossing at **Matlock** **Bath** station, and proposals are awaited from Network Rail. It has been suggested that a sloping path be made from the platform down to the road that passes under the railway at the north end of the station. |  |

**Future Meetings**

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|  | The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th July, 2017, at the Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby, commencing at 17.20. |  |