

## **Friends of the Derwent Valley Line**

### **Minutes of Open Meeting, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018, Brunswick Inn, Derby**

#### **Present**

John Weaver, Chris Darrall, Robin Lumb, Alastair Morley, John Morrissey, Roger Jackson, Patrick Rigby, Harry Bird, Ian Clark (Railfuture), Steve Jones (Railfuture).

#### **Apologies**

David Rayner, Ian Ambrose, Ernie Marchant, Paul Wright

#### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 had been circulated with the agenda, and were approved.

#### **Derby Station Remodelling**

This will take place between Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018. From 30<sup>th</sup> July to 24<sup>th</sup> August, trains will run between Matlock and Derby only (these will run earlier than the normal service). Replacement services will run between Derby and Nottingham. From 25<sup>th</sup> August to 7<sup>th</sup> October there will be no trains between Matlock and Derby, with replacement buses running every 30 mins (every hour on Sundays). Trains from Derby to Nottingham will resume on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Questions were raised about the robustness of the bus timings, but it was noted that during the peak periods, an extra 15mins has been included in the schedule. During the periods when bus services are being used, there will be fare discounts offered.

#### **New East Midlands Franchise**

The Invitation To Tender has been issued. The main timetable change for new services will be in December 2021. It was noted that the Train Service Requirement (TSR) was for Derby – Matlock, and Deby – Nottingham, the same as for the current franchise (it was EMT's choice to amalgamate these services). The Stakeholder Briefing mentions additional early morning and late evening services to Matlock, but none are listed in the TSR.

#### **Current Train Service**

The service on the line was mainly OK, although there are still ongoing problems with short formations leading to overcrowding.

A fence has been erected across the platform at Matlock Bath, reducing its length to 2 coaches. This is because of the poor state of the platform surface. Also at Matlock Bath, Network Rail has indicated that it intends to close the level crossing to the cable car base station. This is mainly because of widely publicised abuses at the crossing.

## **Cross Country Franchise Consultation**

A public consultation has started for the next Cross Country franchise, everybody was urged to make their views known. The consultation closes on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

## **Update from Community Rail Partnership**

Phase 2 of the platform decking at **Duffield** and associated planting has been completed.

The low platform height at **Cromford** has been noted by Network Rail, but there is unlikely to be any immediate action.

EMT have reported that the fencing across the platform at **Matlock Bath** is not to be moved, because of the condition of the platform surface beyond the fence.

Work on the footpath and lighting at **Whatstandwell** has now been completed. It has made a considerable improvement, and has been much appreciated by residents in the area.

It is hoped that the roof of the Whistlestop Centre at **Matlock Bath** station will be renewed during the closure period for the signalling works at Derby. There is still a funding gap of £20k, which it is hoped to raise through grants from ACoRP and CrossCountry. Network Rail are working hard to enable the necessary permissions to be given in the short time before the closure period.

Network Rail have moved funding (£250k) from CP6 to the current period to enable refurbishment work to be done on the canopy at **Matlock** station during the closure period.

Peak Rail reported that another feasibility study was being looked at into the re-opening of the Matlock – Buxton line. Various quarry owners are interested in this, as it was said that the Hope Valley line does not have any further capacity

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Further meetings for 2019 have been arranged for Tuesdays 15<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> July. All meetings will be held at the Brunswick Inn, Derby, starting at 17.20.