

Friends of the Derwent Valley Line

Minutes of Open Meeting held 15th January 2019 at Brunswick Inn, Derby

Present: John Weaver (chairman), Chris Darrall (secretary), Ernie Marchant, Ian Ambrose, Robin Lumb, Alastair Morley, Roger Jackson, Ian Clark (Railfuture), Mike Hancocks, Stephen Chaytow, Robin Greenwood.

Apologies: Garry Purdy, David Rayner, Harry Bird, Bob Pennyfather, Allan Dare, Steve Jones (Railfuture), Laura Etheridge (EMT)

Minutes of previous meeting (with agenda)

The minutes of the previous meeting (16th October 2018), had been circulated with the agenda, and were accepted.

Current Train Service

With the completion of the Derby re-signalling, there has been a noticeable improvement to many aspects of the service, with trains entering and leaving Derby station much faster than previously. However, one unexpected consequence has come to light. Previously, if the northbound CrossCountry train to Newcastle/Scotland was running a few minutes late, the departing Matlock train would be held at Derby until the CrossCountry train had left, and would then follow it to Ambergate. This meant that any passengers for the Matlock line would still be able to make the connection. With the revised track layout the Matlock train is now despatched on time, and will then wait at St. Mary's or Breadsall to be overtaken by the late-running CrossCountry train. Representations have been made to EMT about this.

Work at Ambergate Junction

However there was concern that these works could not be included during the closure for Derby re-signalling; this work will now be undertaken during February, with complete closure of the line for a week, from 10th to 16th February.

Matlock Bath Station

The level crossing has now been closed by Network Rail: in future, the access to the Cable Car will be via the road in front of the Whistlestop Centre.

Future Franchises

There is no further update on a new East Midlands Franchise, although an announcement is expected in April, for the new franchise to begin in August.

Update from CRP

Nothing to report since the last meeting. Next meeting of CRP is in February

Manchester & East Midlands Rail Action Partnership (MEMRAP)

The Chairman welcomed Stephen Chaytow and Robin Greenwood to the meeting. Stephen said that the partnership had been established to bring about the re-opening of the Derbyshire Dales Link south from Buxton/Chinley. The main driver for this was the concern of quarry owners that the outlet for stone traffic to the south (currently via the Hope Valley) was becoming increasingly congested and that further capacity was needed. There was to be a meeting the next day to discuss this (16th January) and Stephen asked if FDVL would

allow details of MEMRAP to be posted on FDVL website. There were no objections so the chairman agreed to liaise with the webmasters (David Rayner and Harry Bird).

Future Meetings:

Tuesday 16th April 2019

Tuesday 16th July 2019

Meetings will be held at the Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby, at 17.20