

MANCHESTER AND EAST MIDLANDS RAIL ACTION PARTNERSHIP (MEMRAP) NOTES ON THE MEETING ON 2nd OCTOBER 2019 AT HUMANITY HOUSE, MATLOCK

Present: Robin Greenwood, Derek Bodey, Jane Taylor, Janet Miller, John Harpur, Ian Clark, Mike Hancocks, Mike Rose, Peter Stanton, Tina Heathcote

Apologies: Kirk Martin, Stephen Chatow, Robin Lumm

1. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting on 2nd September were approved as a true record.

2. MATTERS AND ACTIONS ARISING

These are covered under the main agenda headings.

3. RECENT ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Memrap Consortium:

Robin has been in touch with Ian Brown who is positive and supports our role in the re-opening project.

Peak Rail:

Robin wrote to them asking for a meeting with the Peak Rail Quarry Consortium, the reply (from Jackie Statham) was less than positive. Agreed Robin will draft a reply, as it is clear to us that wide ranging support will not be forthcoming unless all parties work together.

RG

Noted that McCarthy Stone have taken possession of the Station Road site in Buxton and their contractors have started work. We understand that they have requested a meeting next week with Peak Rail's lawyers.

Monsal Trail:

Janet and Robin have explored the third section, between Monsal Head and Hassop/Bakewell, and identified two possible replacement routes. They aim to complete the exercise and produce a proposal for discussion by the end of the year.

JM/RG

Peak Park:

Robin has talked to Tim Nicolson about the 'Safeguard for Rail' policy. He advises that this did not feature in any documents associated with PDNP taking possession of the track bed, or when the tunnels were re-opened, it only exists in the Peak Park Policy. He reiterated their intention to review the policy and the possibility this might be changed to 'Safeguard for Trail'.

Local Authorities:

The meeting with Derbyshire Dales was postponed, it is now scheduled for Monday 7th October. Robin and Stephen did a presentation to Matlock Town Council. They were generally in favour so long as the proposal includes a passenger service and a replacement for the Monsal Trail.

Other Contacts:

Peter has been in touch with Elaine Clark who suggested he talk to Chris Swann at Tarmac - Stephen is already in contact with him. Peter will be attending the Rail Forum (East Midlands) tomorrow and expects to see representatives from all Derby rail related businesses there. He is also in touch with Hugh Wark and hopes to get some information on the construction spec for Borders Rail.

Derek spoke to his contact at Breedon who was unaware of the proposal, but will ask what the company's involvement is if any.

MikeR has met with Ruth George who is positive about the idea of passenger services on the line.

Jane attended a meeting of the All Parliamentary Committee on Light Rail. They would be supportive if we opted for light rail operation on the Buxton-Matlock line.

Abelio:

A meeting is scheduled for 28th October; Robin, John, Stephen and MikeR all plan on going. Agreed that the purpose is to introduce Abelio to MEMRAP and our objective of re-opening the line for freight, heritage and passenger services; also to ascertain their view of operating on a privately owned line.

RG

4. INCORPORATION

MEMRAP is now registered as a company limited by guarantee, the directors are Robin, Stephen, John and MikeR. The articles include a set of clauses whereby there will be a register of supporters, from which the directors will appoint an Oversight Committee, who will mediate if necessary. Agreed that we should start developing the supporter register. Under GDPR supporters details will need to be kept secure, Janet will draft a suitable joining form.

JM

5. PUBLICITY

Agreed that now we are incorporated and looking to recruit supporters we should put out a press release. Janet and Tina had prepared a draft, this was discussed and amendments agreed, Janet will circulate a revised version. Agreed this is for local media distribution, a different style will be needed for publicity within the rail industry.

JM

6. RESPONSE TO DCC's FIVE CONDITIONS

A draft had been circulated for discussion. Agreed that we do need to respond to these at an early stage; even though we do not yet have all the answers, we can at least state how we intend to address the issues. Noted though that the draft needs restructuring to include a 1 or 2 page executive summary, and a lot of the detail put in an appendix. Action on all of us to read the draft and send comments to Robin and Stephen.

All

7. STRATEGIC OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE FEASIBILITY STUDY

A draft spec to carry out the feasibility study had been circulated and was discussed. Particular issues a consultant will need to address include: potential traffic and passenger numbers; how the Ashwood Dale line can link into the Peak Rail station (height differences); bridge over the A6 (can it be double tracked, additional cost if so); any other places eg tunnels where double track may not be possible; possible station stops; track requirements for freight trains; possible operations including services beyond Matlock and Great Rocks Dale.

Again, action on all of us to read the draft and send comments to MikeR.

All

Currently light rail is not included as an option. Jane is writing a paper on this, she will get it finalised and approved as soon as possible so this can be incorporated into the spec.

JT

Agreed that the invitation to carry out the study should go out to tender.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Transport for the North:

Agreed we should ask for a meeting when we have a near-final draft for the feasibility study, in case there is anything they want to see added.

Battery/Hydrogen Trains:

Jane is in contact with a US company who are keen to demonstrate their technology in the UK and are looking for a line to trial it on.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will be held on Wednesday 6th November at 2pm in Buxton. Janet will reserve a space in the Cheshire Cheese.

JM