

Manchester and East Midlands Rail Action Partnership (MEMRAP)

Cheshire Cheese, Buxton – 6th November, 2pm

Meeting No.10

Attendees: Robin Greenwood, Stephen Chaytow, John Harpur, Janet Miller, Jane Taylor, Tina Heathcote, Derek Bodey, Mike Rose, Jean Todd, Peter Stanton, Pete Broomhead, Mike Rose, Steve Caddy, Robin Lumb, Bill Woolley, Guy Kiddey
No Apologies received

1) Minutes from Meeting No.9 on 2nd October 2019

Agreed and confirmed as a fair record.

2) Matters and Actions Arising from the Minutes

- **Peak Rail:** Recent exchanges with Tarmac suggest that Peak Rail may now offer a further meeting with MEMRAP in due course, though no communication has yet been received
- **Monsal Trail:** JM and RG continued their walking survey between Hassop and Rowsley. Whilst Rowsley to Matlock is not yet within scope, they will look at it at a later date to see what might need to be re-sited as they are advised that it takes up one side of the track-bed.
- **Consortium:** It is now understood that Breedon are not part of the existing consortium. MEMRAP (via DB) will endeavour to continue the connection to brief them and seek their closer involvement,
- **Publicity:** The press release has been seen in Matlock, Buxton and Chesterfield press. SC was interviewed on BBC Radio Derby – NB John Scott (Planning Director, Peak Park also interviewed on the same programme). It was noted that some dissenting press comment was included from Peak Rail. A 15-page article on new projects in Rail Magazine did not cover the project, but MR agreed to work with PS on a fresh article in the new year,
- **Derbyshire CC response to 5 questions:** JM to complete the document – probably by end of next week. SC will draft an appendix to add source materials. Acknowledged that some of DCC focus may be on Monsal Trail and the county's 142 miles of cycleways. However, there are pressures on DCC to do more as part of its carbon budgeting.
- **Strategic Outline Business Case Template (SOBC)**
 - **Guy Kiddey:** was welcomed, he introduced the idea of a Buxton to Sheffield link:
 - (1) This project would link the rail routes north from Buxton, near the two Chapel stations
 - (2) Commuter and tourism priorities for enhanced connectivity, beyond the core MEMRAP project.
 - (3) MR could look at the implications and possible inclusion in the current SOBC draft
 - (4) It was stated that this would not conflict with the re-opening of the Peaks and Dales link - MEMRAP will take a watching brief.
 - **Pete Broomfield:** was welcomed, he advised that the first two years of the project will need an environment and heritage asset focus, to address Peak Park, SSSIs, EU compliance, to produce something economically viable, socially acceptable and working out optimum phasing of the alternatives.
 - (1) MR to consider the implications for the SOBC
 - (2) The meeting agreed that these and various other issues may well require further work on detail and the preferred way forward.
 - (3) Reference was made to a Network Rail paper by S Harding that could be useful if PB can source for us, perhaps even invite him to a meeting
 - **Options and phasing:** A lengthy discussion suggested that there is scope for further work to look at what phasing should be proposed:
 - (1) till now, the assumption has been that the quarries' needs would start. This was challenged with the possibility of running services into the Park from the North as an option.
 - (2) Much might depend on what, alongside of trail replacement, was appetising to DCC and the Park
 - (3) Major engineering challenges of the Haddon Tunnel and the A6 are known, but other issues could show up too.

- The meeting agreed that draft timetables would not initially be included and could distract from the SOBC focus.
- **Transport for the North**
 - SC to write to Tim Wood at TfN for a follow-up to the March meeting.
- **Battery/Hydrogen and Light Rail:**
 - Deferred to next meeting, JT to be allocated first slot in the next agenda

3) Reports on Meetings / contacts since last meeting:

- **Meeting with EMR (28/10)** – RG, JH, SC, MR, Steve Jones, Railfuture. Laura Etheridge, Max Taylor, EMR
This meeting went well, with buy in and long-term support, even beyond their franchise, as custodians of EM rail. EMR sees a gap in service, with suppressed demand (Derby/Manchester) due to inadequate links. Preference for forcing extra paths, rather than splitting trains. Their priority is delivery of December 2019 timetable. Early in new year, Max Taylor offered to help by:
 - (1) Assisting with identification of potential funding opportunities in support
 - (2) Analysing the proprietary database to split the reference population volumes: local v inter-regional
- **SC report back on other contacts:**
 - (1) 07/10: Garry Purdy: Leader, Derbyshire Dales District Council: Has helped with leads into Sheffield City Region and EM Council. Concerned about Peak Rail, would like to see the project happen. (RG, SC)
 - (2) 12/10: EM Railfuture: SC, JH, Dave Shaw, Ian Clark, to update and liaise with Ivanhoe campaign
 - (3) 15/10: FDVL: Quarterly update – Robin Lumb now able to join the day time MEMRAP meetings
 - (4) 21/10: BBC Radio Derby interview: Breakfast programme with Ian Skye, live and recorded throughout the programme. Seemed to be well received and heard by some that SC contacted
 - (5) 21/10: Presented to Bakewell Town Council, who feel cut off after 6pm, commuting is hard from there – met local councillors seeking freight modal shift off the A623 – an HGV trap after Mam Tor collapse
 - (6) 24/10: With EM Railfuture at Midlands Connect open day. Spoke to Andy & Richard about the project
 - (7) 30/10: Bakewell Rotary – presentation to about 20 well received.
- **Further updates, including post meeting**
 - (1) Andrew Pritchard – will help us to present and align with MC strategy in 2020. We must be patient!
 - (2) Chris Swan: Offer of consortium meeting withdrawn after Peak Rail intervention.
 - (3) Stephen Walston: our new Network Rail contact is to provide for MEMRAP a document outlining content requirements for the SOBC and SC requested a case study if possible
 - (4) John Rowe: Bakewell Town Clerk is supportive and advised of DCC / Park initiative on low carbon transportation, also to listen to planning committee bid by Chatsworth on 8/11
 - (5) Peak Park special day on sustainable / low / towards zero carbon. DB attended for MEMRAP but in another role. After quarry activity is stripped out, agriculture and transport are 2 largest sources of emissions. 18 major suggestions, including rail re-instatement were developed.
 - (6) Attempts to contact DDDC committees and Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire not yet successful
 - (7) Sally Ambrose: Head of Customer Experience at Chatsworth is keen to meet MEMRAP in January
 - (8) Rail Forum Midland activity – attended by PS for MEMRAP
 - (9) MEMRAP Twitter account launched – with occasional postings

4) Election – Communicating with candidates:

- High Peak - JM et al involved in hustings meetings organisation and will interrogate Ruth George, Guy Kidney and others
- Derbyshire Dales – RG and others to find out what is going on, get involved / SC similar for Amber Valley

5) Communications and Decision Taking

- The full inner email circulation list of people wishing to be included in all discussions (currently includes Steve Jones, Ian Clark and Dave Shaw from EM Railfuture, not regular meeting attendees, but wish to be involved) will always consider any urgent matters, and, if there is a significant indication of the need for a decision

between meetings, then the directors of the company will consider whether a decision is necessary and what it should be.

- Inner Circulation list to be checked again, also periodically to ensure those who wished are on it
- GK asked for minutes only, PB to be on full inner list
- For decisions, emails to include: "Reply by date", heading to include clear mark: "Decision required about..."
- Then directors to determine by consensus as per the articles of the company

6) MEMRAP Membership

- JM circulated draft subscription form after the meeting and called for feedback. Based on wish to steer away from members with right to join decision taking and instead for a more informal supporter list
- JH asked about preference for regular/annual subscription versus one off contributions and preference for low value standing orders that last a long time (cheaper than DDs). Meeting decided to steer away from formal annual membership approach as a time-consuming activity and seek donations only
- GDPR issues considered – JM offered to draft privacy policy and stated the need to retain as little data as possible, ideally on an offline data stick, password protected, whilst ensuring consent for what we do keep
- No personal data to be disclosed on the web – only contact through assigned MEMRAP email address

7) Publicity

- Ideas for merchandising the MEMRAP brand were circulated – a MEMRAP badge could be cheap/effective
- Should we be trading? Concerns raised about tax implications. No decision taken.
- Possibilities to promote in different locations – Buxton station suggested

8) SOBC Funding and other financial issues

- Waiting for bank account to be opened
- Further ideas on SOBC funding from our new Network rail contact
- Hoping for fresh ideas from Tim Wood at TfN and also Tom Goshawk at D2N2

9) Consortium and MEMRAP

- Reported that McCarthy and Stone had been onsite at Buxton station and now were no longer there
- Thought that covenants might stop construction till agreement on access via shared gates is reached

10) AOB

- Discussion points on Light rail and Haddon Hall deferred until the next meeting

11) Date of next meeting:

- Humanity House, Matlock: 2pm on 11th December