

Minutes of Rail for Herefordshire meeting held:
Thursday April 9th 2009 at 7.30pm in the Green Dragon, Hereford

Present: Gerald Dawe (Chair), Mike Ledley, Paul White, Becky Roseff (Secretary), Rob Hattersley, Janet Shott (Vice Chair), Chris Shott, Bryan Holmes, Derek Doward, John Mills (Cotswold Line)

As All Saints Church, our usual meeting place was not available it being Maundy Thursday, this meeting was an informal gathering.

We discussed the **speaker next month**, Professor Lumsdon, who is a Professor of Tourism, lives in Ludlow and is a member of Rail F H. He is speaking on Slow Travel, and rail and its advantages for tourism. If members can advertise this talk in their windows or elsewhere, please do. A poster will be emailed through shortly.

The forecourt of Hereford Station is finally being improved for pedestrians, with a bus bay outside already constructed and a crossing in progress. It looks as though it will take the shortest route across the forecourt, and be suitable for blind people and wheel chairs. Finally it is being done after ten years of asking ...

Gerald reported on the bus meeting for Councillors. They were given a choice of nine options, all on how to save money on the bus subsidy. Gerald and several other Cllrs said they didn't like any of the Options, they felt the bus subsidy shouldn't be cut but increased and money for it should come from another budget. We wait to hear the outcome.

Becky reported on the West Midlands Rail Strategy currently being written by Peter Sargant from Centro, Birmingham. GD and RR had attended a meeting hosted by RailFuture with Peter S the guest speaker. As a result we wrote to him with our list of potential improvements, including twin tracking the Hereford-Malvern railway. We have received a positive reply from him.

John Mills updated us on the Cotswold line twin tracking and what this will mean for train services in the summer when the work takes place. This has been put on the website. Basically the two early morning and late evening trains will run to London, diverted via Cheltenham. Sections of the journey in the middle of the day will be replaced by buses, but Hereford passengers will be able to take the Newport route to London for the same Evesham fare. More details will be available by the end of May.

We felt we should aim for a newsletter to include the FGW details of line closures during the twin tracking July/August. Rob H also volunteered to do a new leaflet.

We felt a letter to the paper about the Hereford Station improvements should be written, using it to let people know about what a good train service we actually have in Hereford, and get them to use it more. Michael L volunteered to write the letter.

Next meeting, All Saints Church as usual, May 14th, 7.30 p.m. Talk by Professor Lumsdon; **SLOW TRAVEL**.

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