

Thursday July 12th 2007 All Saints, Hereford, at 7.30pm

Talk by Mike Bagshaw, Commercial Director, Arriva Trains Wales

Present: About 35 people attended the meeting including Cllr Wilcox, Cabinet Member for the Environment.

Summary: Mike gave a short Power Point presentation followed by about 45 mins of questions. Arriva TW performance has been improving over the last few years, problems that remain are over crowding on some services and week end working disrupting the trains, which is set to go on for the next two years. Station forecourt improvements are planned for Hereford. There has been a move by Network Rail to go to a seven day a week service, in other words, Sundays will be seen as a normal service day in the future.

Arriva's service does not make a profit, it runs on subsidy, so therefore, if trains are crowded, it doesn't necessarily mean extra carriages can be provided. The passenger's wont pay for the stock, ATW must put in a request to the funders.

Passenger journeys have increased by 8.2%. Putting in ticket barriers have increased revenue by 20%. This year the full fleet of 175s were received from Pennine Railways. Newport Platform 4 is in operation with better parking, and access. The platform will ease congestion with London services but presents problems for disabled and refreshment trolleys as there is no lift across.

Performance has improved since the introduction of the Standard Pattern Timetable, better rolling stock and more space at the Canton depot since First Great Western have moved out.

Machynlleth depot will be coming on stream and this will be important, especially for the 158s and the service from Gloucester will be extended through to Cheltenham.

FGW is changing its timetable, again, this will present problems for connections.

Questions concerned lifts at Hereford – the need has been noted but costs and other problems mean it is a long way off. Disabled parking is set by legislation, many stations have remarked there is too much and it may be changed.

Connections between Newport and Hereford raised quite a lot of discussion. Mike said ATW had improved their service, it is up to FGW to improve theirs – if they did connections would be made. They are in discussion to try and improve the situation.

Action Point: Integrated bus-train services is acknowledged as a good idea but nothing really being done about it. We proposed a forum of bus/train/council to talk about issues on a regular basis. This was accepted as a good idea.

NO AUGUST MEETING Next Meeting: Sept 13th 2007; 7.30-8.30 p.m. **Note: in the Green Dragon.**