

Minutes of Rail for Herefordshire meeting held:  
Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Hereford

Present, Gerald Dawe (Vice Chair), Richard Birt, Rob Hattersley, Laurence Godden, Derek Doward, Sue Warren, Paul, David Plowman, John Edon, Paul Seedhouse, Theresa Houghton, Rachel Allan, John Allan, John Thorne, Naomi Bell, Becky Roseff (secretary), Sue Morgan  
Apologies: Janet Shott (Vice Chair), Nick Jones, Stephen Sheppard, Jesse Norman, John van Laun

We discussed the **Local Development Framework**. Becky and Nick Jones are working on this for RfH. The document sets out the plan for development for Herefordshire until 2026. There is much potential in it for rail and public transport improvements. Herefordshire is now a 'Sub Regional Focus for Development', this means 18,000 extra houses, at the rate of 850 p.a. until 2026. It is the Council's job, in consultation with the community, to decide where these houses and associated infrastructure should go. They have proposed four different ways of accommodating the houses. Developers will contribute to infrastructure. We will argue that twin tracking the Hereford-Ledbury line is essential as the rail track and trains today are congested. Re-opening Pontrilas, Stoke Edith and other stations are also essential if we are going to kept to carbon reduction targets. Plus a railway line, the Leominster-Kington line is proposed already, but Hereford-Ross-Gloucester and Ledbury-Gloucester also could be opened to cater for the houses that will very likely be built in Ledbury and Ross. Everyone should read the LDF document and comment, as individuals, and in any organisation they belong to.

A short discussion of the relationship of the **Edgar Street Grid** and the LDF followed. We are still concerned about the road in front of the station, and indeed, the need for new large retain in Hereford at all, and need to write formally about this.

Gerald reported on the **First Great Western meeting** he attended last with. He met Andrew Haines, the new Chief Exec. Though FGW are achieving 90% of their PPM (performance indicators) targets – arriving within 10 mins of timetabled time, on the Cotswold route this is 75%. Many reasons contribute to this, the main being line restrictions, they will only be eased once the twin tracking to Worcester is completed. People asked **Gerald to raise** the matter of no platform announcement at Paddington until 5 minutes before departure, for old and frail people, this is too short a time. Also why is the Malvern Sunday service not started at Hereford. Why is there not recycling of rubbish on FGW trains. Why are train timetables at Ledbury and elsewhere not made particular to the station as they used to be, rather than general.

We discussed small, medium and large improvements that could be taken to the Quality Rail Partnership meeting we have organised for Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>. So far we have:

- Bus Station by Rail Station
- One bus stop not two at Hereford Station, with canopy, seats and timetables
- Pedestrian crossing at Hereford Station with 10 m.p.h. speed limit
- Strong marketing by TOCs in conjunction with Herefordshire Council of train services and destinations, to the public

- Better ticketing for Herefordshire, with some promotional deals, e.g., the evening service of 6.30 p.m. is not much use, it should be earlier
- Through ticketing with buses to Hay, Kington, Ross
- A clock on Leominster Station
- At Hereford station a separate information desk and forward ticketing, plus a minimum of two other ticket selling points
- An information point about the town and tourist information in the station
- A Sunday Service
- An evening service
- Twin Tracking railway Hereford-Ledbury
- Pontrilas re-opening
- Other park and ride station re-openings
- A Rail Officer

#### AOB

Paul Seedhouse on behalf of the parishes of Longtwon, Craswall, Llanveynoe and Ewyas Harold group raised the issue of Pontrilas re-opening. Getting into Hereford takes longer all the time for people south of the river, 20 minutes has been added to the journey in the last few years. This should be written into our submissions to the LDF and Quality Rail Partnership.

Naomi asked why printed minutes and agendas were not sent out to people not on email, that for £8 membership we should be able to achieve this. Becky replied it was time, doing it was time consuming, and with a 100 members, also expensive. Naomi offered to do it, so it will be discussed with Janet (membership secretary) when she comes back from holiday.

**Next Meetings;** No meeting August,

Sept 11 Gary Draisey, Network Rail, Rail Re-openings in Wales; All Saints Church, 7.30 p.m..

Oct 9: Christian Wolmar; internationally renowned rail journalist and author. "WERE THE RAILWAYS EVER PRIVATISED? The inside story of the scandal of rail privatisation".

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