

July 15 2008

I attended last night's meeting of the Cotswold Line Promotion Group. Seven people were present out of approx 15. The meeting commenced with a drink in the bar at 6.45 and we then proceeded upstairs to a small committee room there at 7pm. We wound up at approx 9.15pm with coffee and sandwiches being brought in at 8pm.

These meetings are held bi-monthly. The only items of interest for us at our western end of the line was the fact that the redoubling of the Moreton to Evesham section (14/15 miles) and Charlbury - Aston under Wychwood (3 miles) and also may be 1 mile west of Evesham to give a high speed junction - totalling about 20 miles - the cost for which has more than doubled escalating to an incredible £ 105 million. £ 2.3 million per km or approx £4 million per mile.

The other item is that in the December timetable FGW there is to be an extra HST train between London and Hereford, so totalling 5 round trips each day. This is not finalised at the moment it would be unwise to give proposed times. This would mean that travellers from the East will now have, hopefully, much more time in Hereford and could possibly go on to other places.

Each of the committee members then said a few words about their respective stations.

Pershore: £6,000 has been received from Worcestershire council for local bus services in the Pershore area i.e. station to Town, but this seems to be processing rather slowly. And also to be used for improvements to the station and area such as making the existing small car park larger perhaps.

Malvern: I brought up to the rep there about toilet facilities in the evening for those waiting for onward trains to Hereford.

The Moreton Show (Sept 6th) was mentioned in that if arrival is by train then there will be a reduction of £3 on the entrance fee from £12.

A new special bus link on Saturdays has been set up during August from Evesham station to Toddington to connect with the Glos and Warks Railway. About 25 mins by bus via Broadway. Thus one can go by train to this Railway which would, otherwise, be extremely difficult to visit if one didn't have a car.

Their next meeting will be Sept 10th the day before our own meeting.

Michael Sullivan