

Minutes of Rail for Herefordshire meeting held:
Thursday July 9th 2009 at 7.30pm All Saints, Hereford

Present: Gerald Dawe (Chair), Mike Ledley, Paul White, Becky Roseff (Secretary), Janet Shott (Vice Chair and chairing this meeting), Chris Shott, Derek Doward, David Jones, Richard Birt, Sue Warren, David Ward, John Thorne (bus co-ordinator)

Apologies: Nick Jones, Rob Hattersley, Theresa Houghton, Jesse Norman David Plowman, Bryan Holmes, Derek Potter (CLPG), Roger Lind, Richard Branczic

1. Derek P was surprised there was no announcement on All Saints notice board about our meetings. We asked management of All Saints after the meeting if it would be possible to have a notice up, and were told we could. Action Point: remember notices in All Saints for coming events and regular meetings.
2. Becky asked if the Group would sign as a signatory supporter of the Campaign for Better Transport in Hereford. Members said they would like to see the website first before they signed up to it. The C4BT website will be live in a couple of weeks.
3. Bus report from JT, he has joined Bus Users UK, one of whom visited Hereford with John and Nancy Morgan. The subsidy cut threat has disappeared for the moment. The National Express office at the Bus Station has closed and moved up to College Green. This is similar to Gloucester which used to have an excellent bus centre, which has now been closed. Information is now at the Tourist Information in both Hereford and Gloc, but only between 9 and 5 and some way from the bus station. BR said the C4BT (see 2 above), will argue for £2-4m p.a. extra to be spent on buses in Hereford.
4. Janet reported on the Quality Rail Partnership meeting, the June 23rd meeting had been cancelled. She met with Andrew Ashcroft, Head of Planning and Transport and found he was genuinely keen on the QRP. They decided that his secretary would take minutes, Janet would be Vice Chair, the next meeting would be Sept, when at least one third of the time would be spent on our list of improvements.
5. The Station Improvements at Hereford were noted and generally approved.
6. The non stop Cardiff-Abergavenny 'Welsh Assembly' train was discussed. While we felt it should stop in Hereford it was probably not worth troubling about as there was only one through train each way a day.
7. A short discussion on the FGW twin tracking followed, why they have chosen the parts they have and possibly left the most important, why the through trains are 50 mins earlier (because they are the Cheltenham train service extended), and that Hereford passengers can travel via Newport for the same price during the works.
8. Ticket inspection at Hereford Station and on trains was mentioned, how guards are rightly protected from angry customers by prominent notices but customers are not protected from other angry customers. One cause of dispute is the 'quiet carriage' which needs to be clearly announced by guards in order to set the boundaries, and often isn't.

Next Meetings: **August No Meeting**, Sept 10th Speaker Matthew Engel will be talking about his new book 'Eleven Minutes Late' 7.30 p.m. All Saints Church
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2009/may/23/eleven-minutes-late-matthew-engel>

PO Box 299, Hereford, HR1 2YE e-mail: railfh@aol.com