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MINUTES Meeting June 8th 2006, Held at The Lounge, Green Dragon, Hereford

Present: Gerald Dawe (chair), Rachel Allan, Nick Jones, Janet Shott, Sue Warren, Michael Hughes, Chris Shott, Derrick Downward, Michael Sullivan, Naomi Bell, Becky Roseff, Derek Plowman

We discussed the **new Central timetable**, DD said he was pleased because the 21.30 Bham-Hereford had been reinstated and the 22.43 Hereford-Worcs. This was in part due to letters we have written (see our letter on the website to Central 29 March 06). The Hereford-Birmingham service has improved since the 2003/4 timetable, we now have 12 through trains as oppose to 8 and the time taken is around 1hr 26min, which also represents an improvement. The return Birmingham-Hereford service is much the same as it was with 11 through trains but the near standard pattern timetable is welcome and the times are marginally faster.

Naomi went to a meeting organised by the Cotswold Line Group in Colwall the night before. **Mike Haigh from Central** addressed the meeting. He acknowledged that our part of the line was the worst for punctuality. They are trying to address this. The turn arounds at Ledbury have reduced, there have been seven this year, two due to bridge strikes. There are now no through trains to Nottingham, the change will be at Platform 12, they hope this will reduce delays. He is also conscious of the over crowding issue. Naomi said that she had travelled on a four carriage train to Colwall, but this was in the evening, not when it is actually needed.

The new West Midlands **regional manager for Central is Tony Brown**. Becky R has emailed him regarding the non functioning of the real time display on Malvern station and the hole in the roof.

Gerald announced that he is now **Customer Representative** for FGW at Worcester **Shrub Hill**. He felt one of the first things to be addressed was a map showing the route from WSH to W Foregate as when trains are cancelled at WSH passengers may not be aware that there are other trains going from WF.

**Just Announced** , The West Midlands Rail Franchise consultation document is out at :  
[http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft\\_railways/documents/divisionhomepage/039846.hcsp](http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_railways/documents/divisionhomepage/039846.hcsp)  
Please can people read this and get back to us with comments. Hereford is to be part of the West Mids, not the Cross City as was previously planned.

\*\*Nick offered to write to Cllr Wilcox asking him what the Council intend to do to welcome visitors to the **Three Choirs Festival at Hereford Station**. There was then a discussion about the lack of bus information and waiting space at Hereford Station, something we have been campaigning for several years and a matter discussed at length with Cllr Wilcox at our last December meeting. \*\*David P said he would also bring it up at the 3 Choirs committee meeting. CS mentioned how Councils in the SE

were offering cut price hanging baskets to non-water restricted parts of the country, and this is a good opportunity for Herefordshire Council.

We discussed the lack of **through ticketing between trains and buses**. With Arriva this meant when people are very delayed (2 hours plus) and miss the last bus to Hay they cannot claim compensation for the taxi. Through ticketing is something we should aim for. \*\*Naomi said she would write about the bus service advertised on posters about buses calling at the station that no longer do so. \*\* Becky R said she would write to Hay festival about the lack of late buses during Hay Festival week, this when the festival has launched itself as an environmentally concerned organisation.

\*\*Chris S said he would write to TOCs regarding having the lights on all the time on trains, even in the height of summer – a waste of energy and adding to the heat on the train.

David reported that refurbished 125s were going to **replace the Adlante** trains that were being sold out of the country. DP told us we had £2042 in the bank.

Janet felt we should do a press release about a vote of no confidence in the Cabinet with regard to their performance with trains. The potential para Olympics at Hereford was an opportunity that they will miss.

**Can anyone go to** Travelwatch Public Forum Meeting on Monday June 26th, 10.30am -1.30pm, at Worcestershire County Council County Hall, Worcester? A free lunch.

We talked about good train day trips for the summer that people had experienced.

- Hereford to Port Talbot beach (2 miles of sand and sea), 9.00 departure, 11.10 arrival, with 10 min bus ride, bus calls outside the station and drops you at the beach. There are other beaches near Cardiff.
- Hereford to Towyn, change at Shrewsbury 9.34 arrive 11.30
- Hereford to Chester – 2 hours
- A round trip Craven Arms, mid Wales to Swansea and Arriva back using a roving ticket for 48 hours

If people have other ideas email them through and I will put them up on the website.

**Next Meeting:** July 13th 2006, The Lounge, Green Dragon, Hereford. *We may miss the Aug 10 meeting* as the Green Dragon will be full of 3 Choirers. After than Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 12, Dec 14