

Rail For Herefordshire P O Box 299 Hereford HR1 2YE
www.RailForHerefordshire.org.uk Email: Railfh@aol.com
Gerald Dawe: 01432 343262

MINUTES Meeting Oct 12th 2006, Held at The Lounge, Green Dragon, Hereford

Present: Gerald Dawe (chair), David Plowman, Chris and Janet Shott, Becky Roseff, Rachel Allen, Gillian Bate, John Fancourt. **Apologies:** Derrick Downward

People discussed their rail experiences of the last month, both near – Leominster, Birmingham and far – Australia, Scandinavia. We felt **praise was due** for Hereford Station, it is clean, staff are helpful and friendly. Janet undertook to write a letter.

We also felt Central was much improved, the trains are more comfortable, and more on time, again a letter to them was due. As ever we felt the last train from Bham was far too early, and (virtually) no Sunday trains. These matters will be raised again with the new franchise.

The D for Transport have announced that the three pre-qualified bidders for this new franchise are - (in no particular order). a. **Govia** (trading as London and Birmingham Railway Ltd); b. MTR Corporation (run Hong Kong metro amongst other things); c. **Serco/NedRail** (trading as Serco NedRailways West Midlands Ltd -Serco/Ned also run MerseyRail, and are a joint venture between the Serco Group and Netherlands Railways). Pre-qualified bidders will have until Feb.07 to respond to DfT tenders, the winner will be announced Summer 2007. We will **write to D f T** and the three companies with our standard list of requests (later trains, Sunday trains, faster trains, more bike space, some commitment to twin tracking).

John enclosed a letter from his friend who is Lancs co-ordinator of rail and bus. He suggest we get twin tracking into the Local Transport Plan, into the Route Utilisation study and into TOC aspirations. In the past we have written to all these groups. Becky will write to Richard Ball again about the LTP, and the three bidding TOCs (above). The Route Utilisation Strategy is something of a lost cause.

Newsletter and leaflet; Janet, Gerald and Gillian are meeting at 60 Park Street, 9.30 Oct 18th to allocate tasks and produce a newsletter well before Cmas.

Various Item:

David said there is a Hereford-Bham coach leaving 9.30 a.m. Sunday mornings. John asked if there was a website with private railways listed, if anyone knows please email John (limekiln@btconnect.com)

Janet said Virgin use all Fair Trade tea and coffee on trains

We wondered why early Sunday trains go from Malvern, not Hereford and why the 15.30 Newport Abergavenny train is not carried through to Hereford

Gerald will go to the **FGW Customer Liaison meeting**, October 16th 2006. If anyone has any issues to raise please contact him (GeraldDawe@aol.com)

The Shrewsbury Railway Heritage Trust is holding another evening talk on Wednesday **1st November 2006**, at 19h00 for 19h30 in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Dr Barrie Trinder will give a presentation on Isambard Kingdom Brunel. This event is open to the general public to attend. Admission is free,

Next Meeting: Nov 12 and Dec 14 2006, The Lounge, Green Dragon, Hereford.
AGM January 11th 2007