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MINUTES Meeting Sept 14th 2006, Held at The Lounge, Green Dragon, Hereford

**Present:** Gerald Dawe (chair), Nick Jones, Derrick Downward, Michael Sullivan, Becky Roseff, Naomi Bell, Rachel Allen, Matthew Gregory, Susan Warren

**Apologies:** David Plowman, Chris and Janet Shott

We discussed briefly the continuing saga of Michael S's correspondence with Steve Banaghan (on website), Director Central Trains of a hot day in July when passengers were dumped at Ledbury and had to wait in the heat without buses etc etc. Well done Michael for perseverance.

Becky mentioned the Cotswolds and Malverns Transport Partnership meeting in Oxford on September 1<sup>st</sup>. This group consists of Councillors, Rail Officers from Gloucester, Oxford and Worcestershire, the Cotswold Line promotion group and ourselves. At the meeting we discussed the **FGW new timetable**, the main change being the 6.52 to London is now the 6.43 – this is better than the 6.30 that was originally proposed and was probably due to our lobbying. The other change is the earliest train London to Hereford, currently 7.48 is not now until 9.52 (and 11.52), meaning that day trips to Hereford will hardly be worth it as it won't arrive until 12.52. The rest of the meeting was taken up with a presentation by Gloc and Oxford rail officers on how the group will work in future. There will be a **marketing and promotion workgroup** and an **operations work group**. They hope to have about £20k p.a., contributions from councils, which most people felt would be easily achievable. Excellent ideas were proposed, none of which were new to us, e.g. linking trains with tourism, with major events, bus-train connections, station improvements, having plans in place for rail improvements so that when maintenance work is carried out, the improvements can be included.

We mentioned the Hay festival and correspondence with them regarding promoting rail and connecting with the station, a somewhat naïve response from the organisers. The Malvern 'hopper' train to hills service was mentioned, we sent this cutting both to Cllr Wilcox and Hay festival as an example of what could be achieved.

Worcestershire now has a rail officer, he offered to speak to the group, he lives in Bham so this would be possible as he could get the 21.30 return train to Bham. Becky has written to invite him.

Talked about continuing correspondence with Council to improve station access at Hereford. They have interpreted the DfT Access for All grants as being specifically for disabled, though the CLPM interpreted it in a broader way, as a means to get walk and cycle ways to the station, and repaving. The Council have told us that they are in discussion with Arriva Trains Wales about station improvements, that the Access for All grants have not been allocated to Hereford (did they ask at all?). Will we have disabled lifts at Hereford by Olympic year? (with para Olympics supposedly being located in Hereford).

Michael mentioned the national time table live departure board, very useful

Gerald discussed next newsletter. Nick says there is a demand for these from several shops in town, they run out quickly.



*Waiting for the bus at Hereford, no seats, shelter, information, will a bus arrive, where does it go?*

**Next Meeting:** October 12th 2006, The Lounge, Green Dragon, Hereford. After that  
Nov 12, Dec 14