



campaigning
by the
Railway Development
Society Limited

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Dear Sir,

Cross Country December 2012 Timetable - Invitation for Comments

Thank you for the invitation to comment on your December 2012 timetable.

We welcome, in general, your proposals that provide improved journey times especially in the Birmingham area and note faster times for southbound trains from Birmingham to Cheltenham. However we continue to be concerned at the slow approach, for all Cross Country trains, from the south to Birmingham New Street, which starts in the Barnt Green or Longbridge area. We consider that there should be a much faster approach to New Street from the south with comparable journey times to those in the southbound direction.

We appreciate the retention of Chepstow and Lydney stops in the Cardiff to Nottingham trains. These provide much-improved links from these stations.

You state that due to engineering work in the Reading area on Saturday evenings the 17.32 Newcastle – Guildford service will terminate at Birmingham NS and the 21.40 Reading – Birmingham NS will not operate until Saturday 16th February 2013. We suggest the possible extension of the 17.32 further south to Oxford and returning in the path of the 21.40 from Oxford.

Looking to the future, many Railfuture branches would like to see an extension of the Cross Country network including such destinations as Liverpool and the North West and Swansea/Gloucester (restoring the Operation Princess concept of Swansea to Scotland). Changing in the West Midlands can mean an extra hour on journey times from the North West to the South West, as connections *can* be tight. With the present skip stops on West Coast, new XC services to Liverpool, Blackpool and further North would give passengers better travel options.

With the possible change of operator for the Great Western main line services it is important that all South Wales to London services stop at Bristol Parkway to provide connections to the north and south of England from South Wales. We would appreciate your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

RPittard

Rowland Pittard
Railfuture

www.railfuture.org.uk www.railfuturescotland.org.uk www.railfuturewales.org.uk
www.railwatch.org.uk