

The **monthly** branch newsletter of **railfuture** in London and the South East

Britain's leading *independent* campaign for a bigger better railway for passengers and freight

South Kensington station scheme secures a green signal



On 12th December the Planning Inspectorate allowed the two appeals by Native Land (Kensington) Limited, TTL South Kensington Properties Ltd and London Underground Ltd against the refusals by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea of planning and listed building applications. We had submitted two representations on the original planning application, on 18th February and 26th March 2021, and again to the Planning Inspectorate on 1st September 2022. All had made clear that our sole interest was in measures to secure the provision of step-free access between the street and sub-surface Circle and District line platforms.

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-December edition of *inter-railse* no.66, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

~ joined in consultation webinars for the next stage of Lewes District Council's new Local Plan (2020-40);

~ participated in an informal gathering for selected GTR stakeholders;

~ held regular evening **online** meetings of our Herts & Beds and Sussex & Coastway Divisions;

~ held a regular meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, in-person with a festive social dimension!

~ submitted [our comments](#) in Lewes District Council's survey for its Corporate Plan setting out the Council's priorities for the coming four years: "*Re-imagining Lewes District – delivering the Vision 2024-28.*"

Our vision for Railfuture: *An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision makers come for advice, which rail users are proud to join and recommend.*

What shall we be doing this month?

London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, will be:-

~ consulting internally on our responses to:

Lewes District Council's [consultation](#) – including five webinars – on 'spatial strategy and policies directions' for its new Local Plan (2020-40), closing 8th February;



East Sussex County Council's [survey](#) for its draft Local Transport Plan 4 (2024-50), closing 25th February;

~ holding regular **online** meetings of our Eastern and Herts & Beds Divisions, the inaugural meeting of our London Metro Division in-person in central London, and an in-person Sussex & Coastway social in Lewes;

~ running a weekend regional branch / Kent Division stall at the annual rail exhibition in Longfield Academy.



~ holding a regular **online** meeting of L&SE regional branch's committee.

Britain's Growing Railway in London and South East: January birthdays

~ 5th, in 1981 – restoration of passenger services from Barking into Gospel Oak instead of Kentish Town, after a 55-year break.

~ 8th, in 1996 – Ashford International connected to the European high-speed network when Eurostar began serving the station, but withdrawal of services from Kent's two stations continues indefinitely.

Our vision for rail: *A railway system that provides services which travellers and freight forwarders want to use, and which offers more journey opportunities to more people and more freight.*

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Saturdays / Sundays 6 / 7, 13 / 14 January Major works divert Southeastern's London Victoria services and suspend London Overground Clapham Junction services.

Wednesday 10 January Eastern Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 11 January ORR publishes Passenger rail service complaints Q2 2023/24 (July-September 2023) and Delay compensation claims, 23 July - 14 October.

Thursday 11 January Sussex & Coastway Division in-person social evening, Lewes. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 13 January Herts & Beds Division morning in-person meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Wednesday 17 January London Metro Division evening in-person meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)



75 Cowcross Street, Farringdon, London EC1M 6EL
entrance via black gated access passageway

Saturday 27 / Sunday 28 January Railfuture regional branch / Kent Division stall at annual rail exhibition in Longfield Academy, DA3 7PH.

Thursday 1 February Sussex & Coastway Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 10 – Sunday 18 February Major works suspend Southern and Thameslink services in south London and London Overground Clapham Junction services.

Tuesday 13 February Herts & Beds Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 17 February Kent Division **online** afternoon meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 30 March Nominations close for Railfuture's national Rail User Group Awards 2024.



Saturday 20 April London & South East regional branch open morning meeting and members-only afternoon AGM.

Full details in our [Events](#) and [Rail dates](#) web pages.

Railfuture is 'in the news' / 'making the news' / sharing 'news and views'

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture members making, not just watching, things happen in our website [media extracts](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture making, not just reporting, the news through our [press releases](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture's and others' reports and thoughts published in our [website articles](#).

~ Railfuture is active on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [LinkedIn](#).

Be in it to win it - join Railfuture's Lottery!

Members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – can support Railfuture by joining our monthly [lottery](#).

Railfuture publications by email

~ All members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – are being encouraged to receive [Railwatch](#) direct to their Inbox immediately on publication by logging-in at [Member services](#).

~ receive Railfuture's regular monthly newsletter [Rail User Express](#) direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk

~ receive Railfuture's occasional [Rail Action](#) bulletin direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk

This branch e-newsletter is free, published monthly and distributed to branch members with their GDPR consent Items for our newsletters, and our branch Local Action column in *railwatch*, to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

railfuture

Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for Britain's railway and rail users

Website: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) Twitter: [@RailfutureLSE](#)

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