

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

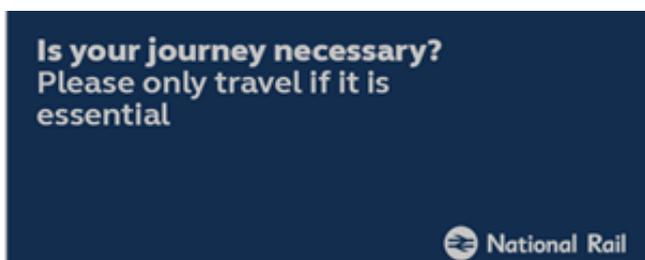
## Are we ready to attract passengers?

Not like this, we most certainly will not be! Fortunately, instant uproar was followed by speedy withdrawal. What a slap in the face after all the valiant efforts of the rail staff, at every level, who had worked their socks off!



Most, and more, rail users feel confident travelling in safety, at 89%. Non-users of rail still don't, at only 41%. Source: Transport Focus [weekly Tracking Research](#).

Meanwhile, however, the central message remains:



“Transport User Voice” – the national watchdog’s monthly newsletter. Click [here](#) to subscribe.

## [COVID-19 briefing to Railfuture members](#)

Stay abreast with Railfuture’s web [articles](#) and [tweets](#).

## What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-February edition, no.32, of *inter-railse*, Railfuture London and the South East members have:-

~ via social media, noted the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Ashford-Hastings MarshLink line with four intermediate stations, as an opportunity to reaffirm the success of GTR’s Railfuture-inspired May 2018 timetable in driving record-breaking levels of usage at 10 of the Ashford-Eastbourne service’s 17 stations.

~ contributed to the first **online** workshops in the Forums for Transport for the South East’s Inner Orbital and South Central Radial Area Studies.



~ contributed to a joint response, submitted by East Anglia branch, to Greater Anglia’s draft timetable for the Great Eastern Main Line for December 2021.



~ contributed to a joint response, submitted by Wessex branch, to Hampshire County Council’s survey for their Local Transport Plan 4.

~ joined in the **online** launch of sub-national transport body England’s Economic Heartland’s adopted Regional Transport Strategy.

~ joined in **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Herts & Beds, and Kent Divisions.

~ held a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.

## What shall we be doing (remotely)?

~ contributing to the **online** meeting of the Southeast CRP’s MarshLink Steering Group.

~ contributing to the **online** meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.

~ participating in the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group **online** meeting on “Project Speed.”

~ participating in the **online** Summit of neighbouring sub-national transport body Transport East.

~ participating in the **online** meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.

~ contributing to the **online** meeting of the Transport Forum of Transport for the South East.

~ participating in the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group **online** meeting with the Rail Minister.

~ holding **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Kent and Herts & Beds Divisions.

~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.

**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.

Here's one we're preparing just now!



~ response to the consultation by the C2E Partnership (part of Thames Gateway Kent Partnership) on options to improve transport links between Abbey Wood and Ebbsfleet, now closing Wednesday 3 March.

Here's some we're preparing for later

~ Hastings Borough Council's consultation on their [draft Hastings Local Plan](#) closes Wednesday 24 March.



~ further representations to the Planning Inspectorate on the application by London Resort Holdings Ltd for a Development Consent Order, closing on 31 March.



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

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](mailto: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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**Britain's Growing Railway in London and the South East: Happy March birthdays**

~ in 1991 (date/s in March uncertain), north and south chords and new Stansted Airport station.  
~ on 27<sup>th</sup>, in 2008, Heathrow Airport T5 extension from Heathrow Central / T1-3, and new Terminal 5 station.

**Calendar of forthcoming diary dates**

**Monday 1 March** "The development of TfL Overground." Free **online** evening presentation.

**Tuesday 2 March** "Project Speed." All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group **online** evening panel discussion with four guest speakers.

**Tuesday 2 March** "Review of trends in modern railfreight." **Online** evening webinar.

**Tuesday 2 March** Railway Cinema Night – "Building the Severn Tunnel" plus Q&A with Michael Portillo.

**Wednesday 3 March** "The Abbey Wood to Ebbsfleet Connectivity Study – How Should we Invest in Transport to Deliver the Government's Vision for the Thames Estuary?" **Online** evening webinar.

**Wednesday 3 March** "Mind the gap: gauging improvements." Free **online** evening webinar.

**Thursday 4 March** "Making surface access work at future Gatwick Airport." Free **online** evening webinar.

**Thursday 4 March** Sussex & Coastway Division **online** evening meeting; speaker. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Tuesday 9 March** Transport East annual summit.

**Wednesday 10 March** "Barking Riverside Extension." Free **online** evening webinar.

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

**Sunday 21 March** National Census.

**Thursday 25 March** "Sustainability in the rail industry." Free **online** evening webinar.

**Thursday 25 March** "The future of public transport – the view from the House." **Online** evening webinar.

**Monday 29 March** Herts & Beds Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Saturday 17 April** London & South East regional branch members' **online** morning meeting, and AGM.

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