

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

COP26* postscript

Mind the gap between rhetoric and reality! Railfuture's message in the brief interval between Autumn Budget with 3-year Spending Review and the start of COP26 was [this](#): one cut of domestic air passenger duty + an 11th annual freeze of fuel duty = government hypocrisy. Then for the conference's Transport Day our message was [this](#): decarbonising transport requires mode shift to rail, and more electric rail, not simply electric cars.

In real life, outside the Whitehall bubble, Network Rail first highlighted "[four actions against climate change](#)" and then "[nine things that happened during COP26](#)."



A Network Rail [survey demonstrates the challenge](#) of converting the public's green thoughts to green actions – heads must follow hearts!

* **COP26** was the 26th Conference of the Parties to the **UNFCCC**, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – a treaty agreed as long ago as 1994!

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.

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

Consistent majorities of rail users (steady at 89%) and non-rail users (steady at 65%) are confident about travelling in safety by train, despite them being busier. Source: Transport Focus weekly [Tracking Research](#).

Click [here](#) to subscribe to "Transport User Voice".

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

What has [@RailfutureLSE](#) been doing?

Since the November edition, no.41, of *inter-railse*, Railfuture's London and South East members have:

~ held regular **online** meetings of our Eastern, Kent, and Sussex & Coastway Divisions, and an evening social for our Herts & Beds Division.

~ contributed to an alternate-monthly meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.

~ participated in East Midlands Railway's conference for stakeholders, in Nottingham.

~ contributed to an alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee, in Buxted.

~ contributed to the SCRP Annual General Meeting and Steering Group for the MarshLink Line.

~ participated in a Winter Timetable Forum by GTR.

~ contributed to the People's Climate Assembly on sustainable housing and transport, Lewes Climate Hub.

~ participated in Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Public Transport Forum.

~ attended the **online** briefing for stakeholders on the 8-week public consultation about the draft Transport Strategy of sub-national transport body Transport East.

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

London and South East branch committee members:

~ have finalised our response to Gatwick Airport Ltd's pre-DCO consultation on their Future Plans to bring the existing Northern Runway into routine use.

All Railfuture submissions can be found in our library via the website's home page, and [here](#).

What shall we be doing this month?

~ participating in a Network Rail / GTR briefing about next February half-term's Brighton Main Line closure south of Three Bridges.

~ holding a regular **online** meeting of our Herts & Beds Division, and a Sussex & Coastway Division social.

~ participating in the quarterly **online** meeting of the Transport Forum of sub-national transport body Transport for the South East.

~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting **online**, and (we hope) a rail-based social on the Isle of Wight!

~ drafting our response to the draft Transport Strategy of sub-national transport body Transport East.

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.

Britain's Growing Railway in London & South East: December birthdays

~ Watford Stadium Halt opened on the 4th in 1982, on match days only. One day, the stadium will be served again, by a new Watford Vicarage Road station on a new Croxley link!
~ London St. Pancras International's low-level Thameslink platforms opened on the 9th in 2007.
~ London Marylebone services extended between Oxford Parkway and Oxford on the 11th in 2016.
~ Aylesbury Vale Parkway station, and extended line from Aylesbury, opened on the 14th in 2008. One day served by trains between the East West Main Line and Watford Junction, via a new Watford Vicarage Road?
~ Eurotunnel Le Shuttle services for cars started on 22nd in 1994.

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Wednesday 1 December Closing date for Gatwick Airport Ltd's pre-DCO consultation on Future Plans to bring the existing Northern Runway into routine use.

Thursday 2 December Network Rail / GTR [online](#) briefing on next February's BML 9-day closure.
Thursday 2 December Sussex & Coastway Division evening social meeting.

Friday 3 December "The Williams Shapps Plan for Rail: Great British Railways and the 30-year strategy." Free morning [webinar](#).

Saturday 4 December "Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit – HERT." [Online](#) morning engagement event.

Saturday 4 December Railfuture Thames Valley branch stall with Witney Oxford Transport Group at Oxford Green Fair, all day in Oxford Town Hall.

Saturday 4 December Herts & Beds Division [online](#) morning meeting.

Saturday 4 December Railfuture East Anglia branch open meeting, with guest speaker from Network Rail Anglia Route. Afternoon meeting in Cambridge.

Wednesday 8 December "Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit – HERT." [Online](#) morning engagement event.

Thursday 9 December Office of Rail and Road publishes Passenger Rail Performance for Q2, July-September 2021.

Thursday 9 December "Community Rail Awards 2021." [Live-streamed](#) from Southampton event.

Sunday 12 December national timetable changes.

Tuesday 14 December Office of Rail and Road publishes Freight Rail Usage and Performance for Q2, July-September 2021.

Wednesday 15 December "Future Hoo" afternoon-evening public consultation event.

Thursday 16 December Office of Rail and Road publishes Passenger Rail Usage for Q2, July-September 2021.

Thursday 16 December "Future Hoo" afternoon-evening public consultation event.

Friday 17 - Friday 24 December and **Monday 27 December-Monday 3 January** Christmas / New Year school holiday festive period when [over 95% of the rail network remains open for business!](#)

Monday 10 January Close of Medway Council's second "Future Hoo" consultation.

Friday 28 January Close of Herts County Council's consultation on Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit.

Saturday 29-Sunday 30 January London & South East regional branch stall at rail exhibition in Longfield.

Monday 31 January Nominations close for 2022 L&SE regional branch committee, full committee of 4 officers + 6 members to be elected for a 1-year term.

Tuesday 1 February Nominations close for 2022 Board of Directors, 3 to be elected for a 3-year term.

Saturday 19-Sunday 27 February Half-term closure of Brighton Main line south of Three Bridges.

Saturday 19-Sunday 20 March London & South East regional branch stall at rail exhibition at Ally Pally.

Saturday 16 April Closing date for nominations for Rail User Group Awards 2021-22; presentations at national AGM on Saturday 16 July, by Bristol Parkway.



Saturday 30 April London and South East regional branch annual open meeting (with AGM).

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

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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Registered Office: Edinburgh House, 1-5 Bellevue Road, Clevedon, North Somerset, BS21 7NP
(for legal correspondence only). All other correspondence to 14 Ghent Field Circle, Thurston, Suffolk IP31 3UP