

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

#RailTransportForNewHomes - Hoo

Medway Council's latest consultation for Hoo, on a draft Development Framework, runs to 25th November. Launched on 23rd September this came too late for *raillse* [no.157 for September](#), viewable in 'Branch news' on the website, and will have ended before the next issue for December. Local public exhibitions will be held on the 2nd, 5th and 9th November.



That newsletter gave a brief flavour of a rail project in trouble, a victim of opposition to the development which it is proposed to serve. Railfuture will respond officially to the consultation, and all members are now urged to respond in their individual capacity as private citizens. There are just five questions in the online survey [here](#). Reference is made to "a rail passenger service towards London" - for a development the same size as Barking Riverside served by 4 trains per hour.

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.

Our latest Rail Minister, Kevin Foster



DfT website: "The Minister is responsible for HS2, Integrated Rail Plan, Northern Powerhouse Rail, Transpennine route upgrade, Rail network enhancements pipeline, rail passenger and freight services, rail reform, Network Rail, Restoring Your Railway, accessibility."

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

- ~ Kentish Town West reopened in 1981, on the 5th, after a fire a decade earlier necessitated its closure.
- ~ Arlesey in Central Bedfordshire reopened in 1988, on the 3rd, after a Before Beeching Closure (BBC) in 1959.
- ~ How Wood opened in 1988 as a new station on the Abbey line, on the 22nd as the line was electrified.
- ~ new Chiltern services between London Marylebone and Oxford Parkway, via the new Bicester chord and reopened stations at Islip and Bicester Village, began in 2015, on the 26th - a first glimpse of East-West Rail!



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.

What shall we be doing this month?

- ~ participating in an in-person meeting of Southeast CRP's North Downs Line Steering Group.
- ~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.
- ~ holding regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway (in-person) and (**online**) Herts & Beds Divisions.
- ~ participating in the Gatwick Airport Transport Forum.
- ~ participating in an **online** Kent Rail Summit.
- ~ participating in a South East Councils Summit "Tomorrow's South East."

Coronavirus insight

Confidence about feeling safe when using trains in relation to Covid-19 is steady at record-high levels, with 93% of rail users and 79% of non-rail users who would feel safe if they had to make a train journey. Source: Transport Focus weekly [Tracking Research](#).

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-September edition of *inter-railse* no.51, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members have, amongst their various other activities:

~ contributed to an **online** meeting of Southeast CRP's MarshLink Steering Group.

~ participated in a Network Rail presentation of their draft final North & East Kent Connectivity Study.

~ participated in an **online** meeting of the Transport Forum of Transport for the South East.

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

~ held regular meetings of our Herts & Beds (in-person) and Eastern (**online**) Divisions.

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

~ participated in an alternate-monthly **online** meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.

~ participated at the in-person Summit held in Ipswich by sub-national transport body Transport East.

~ participated in the annual Southeast CRP joint meeting of the Tonbridge-Redhill / Reigate and Oxted-Uckfield / East Grinstead Steering Groups.

Also in September, regional branch committee:

~ submitted comments to the Planning Inspectorate for the appeal against the refusal by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, against officers' advice, for redevelopment around South Kensington Underground station which would include some provision for step-free access for the sub-surface Underground lines, and also for the appeal against the refusal by Lewes District Council of an application for outline planning permission for up to 68 homes on the same key gap site between Ringmer and Broyle Side as was recently refused outline planning permission for up to 97 homes.

~ submitted Railfuture's tri-branch response to TfSE's draft Strategic Investment Plan.

~ responded to the Bluebell Railway's consultation on their Western Extension Project, to Ardingly.

All Railfuture submissions can be found [here](#)

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Thursday 6 October ORR publishes Passenger Rail Usage data for April-June 2022.

Thursday 6 October Sussex & Coastway Division late-afternoon meeting, Brighton. Invite non-members!

Thursday 6 October Community Rail Awards presentations, Manchester.

Friday 7 October Gatwick Airport Transport Forum.

Tuesday 11 October Herts & Beds Division evening **online** meeting. Invite non-members!

Thursday 13 October "Thames Gateway Tramlink (KenEx): Sustainable Transport for the East / South East Region." Free afternoon talk at Stratford.



Saturday 22 - Sunday 30 October Schools half-term.

Monday 24 October Elizabeth Line's Bond Street station opens.

Wednesday 2 November Medway Council public consultation event for "Future Hoo."

Thursday 3 November Sussex & Coastway Division meeting. Invite non-members!

Saturday 5 November Medway Council public consultation event for "Future Hoo."

Sunday 6 November Elizabeth Line Sunday and through services between Shenfield and Paddington and between Abbey Wood and Heathrow / Reading commence.

Wednesday 9 November Medway Council public consultation event for "Future Hoo."

Saturday/Sunday 19/20 November Railfuture L&SE regional branch stall for "Ashford 180" celebrations.

Saturday 19 November Kent Division afternoon meeting, Ashford. Invite non-members!

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

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