

Yorkshire Rail Campaigner

No 2 August 2008

railfuture Yorkshire

Leeds City Region Rail Summit calls for New Trains

The first ever Leeds City Region Rail Summit, held on 20th June, called for further investment in the local rail network to meet the growing demands of the Region. The event, *Lines of Enquiry*, was attended by around 120 key representatives of the business community, rail industry, rail users, the media and the 11 Leeds City Region partners. It called for extra trains, more carriages, new stations, further electrification and the introduction of tram-trains. These proposals will form the basis of a 10-15 year transport strategy for the Region which will be part of a new deal with the Government.

Delegates also supported a long-term approach to the challenges facing the Region, including the protection of disused former rail routes for potential future use.

Nina Smith, Railfuture Yorkshire Secretary, said "I was really encouraged to hear such a wide range of interests coming together to advance the case for the rail investment our Region so urgently needs—especially the provision of new trains and stations to meet the growing demand for rail services."

Summit Chairman Alan Whitehouse, the BBC's Transport Correspondent, in closing the event, said that rail services in the north had a lot more to offer and hoped that such events would send a message upwards to the decision-makers.

As part of the Leeds City Region's £4.5bn Transport Vision, the Yorkshire and Humber Transport Board



(photo courtesy Metro)

(which includes representatives from environmental organizations) has committed almost £80m of funding to the following projects:

- Leeds Station Southern Entrance (£11m)
- Yorcard smartcard (£28m)
- East Leeds Parkway (£20m)
- York Park & Ride Schemes £20.5m)



Forthcoming Railfuture Yorkshire Events

Thursday September 18th: Branch Visit to Neville Hill Depot (advance booking required — see page 4)

Saturday September 20th: Ilkley - Branch Meeting with Guest Speaker on Transport in the Yorkshire Dales (see page 4)

Saturday November 15th: Stocks Moor - Tribute to James Towler (see page 2 for more details of this special event)

Sat January 17th 2009: Doncaster—Branch Meeting with Metro Guest Speaker (to be confirmed)

Next Year's National AGM will be held in Leeds on Saturday 9th May—all offers of help to Mike Crowhurst please

Always Putting the Passenger First: a Tribute to James Towler

by Andrew Oldfield

To mark the 10th anniversary of his passing, Railfuture Yorkshire will be commemorating the enormous contribution of former Railfuture Yorkshire President and Chairman James Towler with a special event.

Along with his Yorkshire Branch roles, James remains the most active Vice President in the history of Railfuture.

Unlike politicians we do have long memories, and recognise that the thriving railway of today owes much to the determination, resolve and vision of James Towler 25 years ago, when he stood firm against British Rail at the time of the closure proposals for the Settle-Carlisle and Huddersfield—Sheffield lines.

In the dark days of the 1980s, James shone like a beacon and can be truly regarded as the most influential figure in railway circles of that decade. Make no mistake, James helped to shape the railway network of 2008!

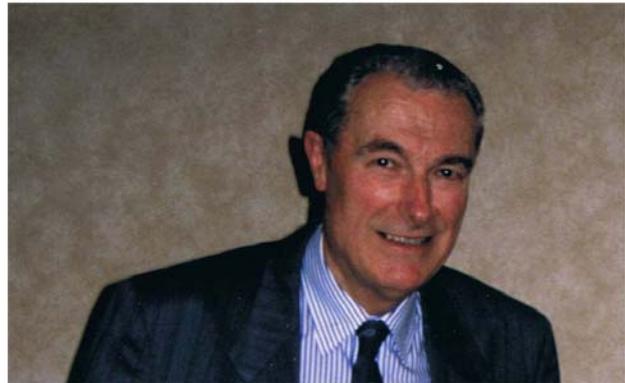
For further information about the event and a full list of speakers please contact Andrew Oldfield

Branch Visits

20 member and friends were treated to a fascinating conducted tour of Drax Power Station on a sunny June evening. Timekeeping—both connecting train and tour coach—was excellent and everyone was in awe at the massive cooling towers! Many thanks to Phil for superb organisation and to our guides for keeping us entertained. The next visit will be to Neville Hill Depot on 18th September—see page 4. **Plans for future visits** include the Port of Hull, York Signalling and Control Centre (IECC) and Siemens Depot, and Gascoigne Wood. Any other suggestions will be welcomed by Phil Watson.

Dr Robin William John Sisson

We very much regret to inform members that Robin was killed in a car accident on 24th June. His funeral (attended by 450-500 people) took place on 25 July at the United Reform Church, Saltaire. Robin was a member of the Yorkshire TUCC during the chairmanship of James Towler (see above). He was also instrumental in the reopening of Frizinghall Station on the Shipley to Bradford Forster Square line. A full obituary appeared in the Yorkshire Post on 12th July.



(photo courtesy Muriel Towler)

The event will be held on Saturday 15th November at Stocksmoor Village Hall (a short walk from Stocksmoor Station on the Penistone Line) starting at 2pm.

The main speaker will be John Moorhouse, Company Secretary of Travel Watch North West and former Secretary of the Transport Users' Consultative Committee for Yorkshire/North East. **Members and Rail User Groups (RUGs) are urged to attend this gathering to pay a proper tribute to an outstanding figure from the pro-rail lobby.**

James firmly believed that the RUGs represented the strength of Railfuture Yorkshire. In recognition of this, the event will include a *User Group Newsletter Competition*. **All RUGs are invited to submit their latest newsletter to Andrew Oldfield (14 Long Lane, Worrall, Sheffield S35 0AF Tel 0114-286-3979) by 12th September 2008 to ensure inclusion.**

Save the Woodhead Tunnel!

Another demonstration in support of the campaign to save the Woodhead Tunnel (on the former Sheffield to Manchester rail route) was due to take place on 2nd August. For more information see

<http://savethewoodheadtunnel.blogspot.com/>

Slow Progress on starting the Penistone Line Tram-Train Pilot is reported, leading to concerns that the cash might not be found! Can anyone enlighten us please?

Branch Key Contacts

Chairman: Chris Hyomes

12 Monument Lane, Pontefract
WF8 2BE

Email: chrishyomes@supanet.com

Secretary: Nina Smith

14 Bank Terrace Hebden Bridge
HX7 6BU

Treasurer: Andrew Oldfield

14 Long Lane, Worrall, Sheffield
S30 0AF

Press Officer/ Parliamentary

Liaison Officer: Peter Yates

26 All Saints View Woodlesford
Leeds LS26 8NG

Email: petyates53@uk2.net

Communications Officer:

Graham Collett

16 Wilstrop Farm Rd Copmanthorpe
York YO23 3RY

Email: graham@collettgh.plus.com

Membership Secretary: Phil Watson

8 Millfield Lane, Wilberfoss, York
YO41 5PP

Email: watson804@btinternet.com

E-Petition to Reopen the Skipton-Colne Line

Please Support this Petition to the Prime Minister for what must be one of the most worthwhile reopening schemes in the North of England at

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/reopen/>

More details on the Skipton East Lancs Rail Action Partnership website at:

<http://www.selrap.org.uk/>

Yorkshire Rail Campaigner on the Web!

Our Branch Newsletter will in future appear on the Yorkshire pages of the national Railfuture website. The May issue is now available at:

<http://www.railfuture.org.uk/tiki-index.php?page=Yorkshire%20Branch>

Chairman's Column by Chris Hyomes

“Pressure intensifies for UK high-speed lines”, “Case for electrification is growing, says Kelly”, “Battle lines drawn for HS2”.

With such headlines dominating the railway press recently, one could be forgiven for thinking the tide has finally turned in favour of rail, and the active members of Railfuture can put their feet up and take a well earned rest. But look through the headlines and take a close look at what is happening at local level and the picture is totally different.

Here in Yorkshire we have a long list of possible station and line re-opening schemes, capacity problems on many services into Leeds and on the East Coast Main Line, possibly one of the country's worst stations for a city (Wakefield Kirkgate), the almost non existent service between York & Sheffield via Pontefract, and the list goes on.

The voice of Railfuture at local level is needed more than ever before!

Hull Docks Branch more than Doubled in Capacity! by Tony Ross, Hull and East Riding Rail Users



(Photo courtesy Freightliner PLC)

Rosie Winterton MP, Minister of State for Transport and Minister for the Yorkshire and Humber Region,

visited Hull Docks on Tuesday 10th June to see the final work of a £14.5 million project to more than double capacity on the Hull Docks branch.

Some outstanding signalling work was expected to be completed by the end of July.

The project is one of the first to be delivered by Network Rail under the Government's Transport Innovation Fund (TIF). It also received funding from The Northern Way and Yorkshire Forward. Associated British Ports (ABP) also invested £2.85 million on its infrastructure.

