

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

## Attracting passengers? Postponed

Publishing just days after our national 'one small step' – 'giant leaps' are not even optional – out of COVID pandemic lockdown limitations, Railfuture campaigning is akin to train operators remaining under government instruction to defer all promotional activities until June.

We look forward however to the next small steps, all yet to be confirmed, but set provisionally for Mondays:  
12 April – schools reopen after the Easter break  
17 May – rail timetables change  
21 June – all legal limits on social contact removed.

Most rail users (88%) feel confident travelling in safety. Most rail non-users (55%) don't, the lowest % in 2021. Source: Transport Focus [weekly Tracking Research](#).

"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](#).

## Have your say! X marks the spot

Railfuture's annual election for three Directors to the national Board for 3-year terms, from five candidates:  
Ian Brown, Policy Director – full term expired  
Neil Middleton, interim Communications Director – co-opted to fill temporary vacancy  
Chris Page, Chair – full term expired  
Mike Rose, interim Freight Director – co-opted to fill temporary vacancy  
Wendy Thorne, Membership Director - full term expired

Owing to the vacancies arising from two resignations before full terms had been completed, the fourth- and fifth-placed candidates will serve out the remaining two- and one-year terms of those former Directors, and like all Directors be eligible for re-election thereafter.

Voting closes on Friday 30 April, results announced at national Annual General Meeting on 17 July.

## Britain's Growing Railway in London and the South East: Happy April birthdays

~ on 27<sup>th</sup>, in 2010, as London Overground began 'preview' services on the East London Line's northern extension from New Cross / New Gross Gate beyond Whitechapel, new stations opened at Dalston Junction, Haggerston, Hoxton, and Shoreditch High Street.

**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.

## Attracting our members – arranged!

"**Re-growing our railway**" is the theme for our regional branch members' annual meeting, now confirmed for the mid-morning of Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

We shall start at 11.00 with guest speakers **online** from Transport Focus, Network Rail and one of our train operators to address our theme and stimulate a discussion. After about an hour we shall conclude with the brief formalities of an AGM.

To register and join this **online** event, click [here](#).

## What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-March edition, no.33, of *inter-railse*, Railfuture's London and South East members have:

- ~ contributed to an **online** meeting of the Southeast CRP's MarshLink Steering Group.
- ~ presented to Friends of London Transport Museum on "[TfL Overground](#)."
- ~ contributed to an **online** meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.
- ~ participated in the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group **online** meeting on "*Project Speed*."
- ~ participated in the **online** Summit of neighbouring sub-national transport body Transport East.
- ~ contributed to an **online** meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.
- ~ held a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.
- ~ contributed to the **online** quarterly meeting of the Transport Forum of Transport for the South East.
- ~ contributed to the first **online** workshop in the Forum for Transport for the South East's Mobility Strategy.
- ~ participated in the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group **online** meeting with the Rail Minister.
- ~ examined the [Summary Report](#) of the West Sussex Transport Plan Review Survey, to which [we responded](#) in December, noting a planned summer consultation.
- ~ participated in the Community Rail in the South East **online** forum of all CRPs within the TfSE area.
- ~ contributed to GTR's **online** Accessibility Forum.
- ~ joined in **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Herts & Beds, and Eastern Divisions.

## What shall we be doing this month?

- ~ participating in GTR's East Coast Upgrade **online** forum.
- ~ participating in Greater Anglia's **online** annual forum for rail user groups.
- ~ holding **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway and Herts & Beds Divisions.
- ~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.
- ~ participating in the second **online** Forum for TfSE's South Central Radial Area Study.



- ~ drafting consultation responses to Medway (6 April), Tunbridge Wells (4 June), East West Rail (9 June).

Our usual t's and c's apply: please respond individually as private citizens without making any reference to Railfuture, and **contribute your ideas** for Railfuture's responses to [roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk) who will be co-ordinating the responses on behalf of Railfuture.

## Here's a few we prepared earlier

- ~ [response to the C2E Partnership](#) (part of Thames Gateway Kent Partnership) on options to improve transport links between Abbey Wood and Ebbsfleet.
- ~ [supplementary response to Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea](#) on South Kensington station.
- ~ [response to Hastings Borough Council](#) on their draft Hastings Local Plan.
- ~ [representations to the Planning Inspectorate](#) for the pre-examination of the application by London Resort Company Holdings for a Development Consent Order for the London Resort Theme Park.

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

**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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## Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

**Thursday 8 April** Sussex & Coastway Division **online** evening meeting; speaker invited. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Tuesday 13 April** "Japan vs UK rail model."

Free **online** evening talk.

**Tuesday 13 April** "Cambridge Autonomous Metro."

Free **online** evening talk.

**Wednesday 14 April** "Developments & opportunities in traction technology – decarbonisation and air quality." Free **online** evening talk.

**Thursday 15 April** "The outlook for Tram-Train schemes in the UK and lessons learnt from Sheffield Supertram." Free **online** evening talk.

**Saturday 17 April** London & South East regional branch members' **online** mid-morning meeting, with speakers, followed by AGM.

**Monday 19 April** "Introduction of the Crossrail fleet."

Free **online** evening talk.

**Tuesday 20 April** "Future on-board power."

Free **online** evening talk.

**Wednesday 21 April** "Rail freight: the key to decarbonising trunk haul logistics."

Free **online** evening talk

**Wednesday 21 April** "Advances in coaching stock design, 1950-2020." Free **online** evening talk.

**Thursday 22 April** "Electrification in transportation II: an extraordinary one year on!"

Free **online** late-afternoon talk.

**Saturday 24 April** Herts & Beds Division **online** morning meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Saturday 24 April** East Midlands branch **online** afternoon open meeting.

**Monday 26 April** "Rail freight during and since the COVID crisis." **Online** evening talk.

**Tuesday 27 April** "Werrington Grade Separation."

Free **online** evening talk.

**Friday 30 April** Voting for national Directors closes.

**Saturday 17 July** National Annual General Meeting, including Board election results, Birmingham.

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