

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE MAJOR CAMPAIGNS

- **Waterside Line Reopening** - We have been working closely with The Three Rivers Rail partnership who have led on this. Good progress has been made with the latest report from Hampshire County Council. We lobbied local MPs and Hampshire County to re-examine the 2013 business case. We have pressed for this to be considered by the DfT as part of the restoring 'Your Railway Fund'.
- **Welborne Station** - with help from Roger Blake and Chris Page Railfuture national directors we have been pursuing a new station as part of the local housing development. We want to ensure that any local development near a rail line has rail opportunities at the forefront of any plans. To emphasis social, environmental and economic benefits.
- **Hampshire County Council** has embarked on its **Local Transport Plan (LTP4)** for the period to 2050, and we've contributed to the plan's overall vision and guiding principles. The plan consultation period is due to commence in the summer and will be an opportunity to influence the Council's rail proposals.
- **Transport for the South East** (includes Hampshire and IoW) and **Western Gateway** (includes Dorset). The Wessex Branch area straddles these new Sub-National Transport areas. Both have been setting out their regional transport strategies, and we've made substantial contributions to Railfuture's overall responses.
- **Portsmouth City Council's draft Transport Strategy** - in December 2021, we submitted our comments and we developed our own briefing paper about how to improve rail services in the South, making the point that it's not just about speeding up services.

- **Island Line extensions** - in March 2021, we submitted a list of comments and suggestions to support the business case to Ventnor and Newport. The consortium working on the business case hope to complete their work in May.
- **Island Line** - the investment in new trains and improved infrastructure has been very welcome. However, we've expressed concerns about poor reliability in the months leading up to the temporary closure, performance issues with the replacement bus services, and potential timetable problems once the new trains are operating. Delays in completing the works are regretted, and we've also challenged the prolonged withdrawal of the foot ferry to Ryde Pierhead.
- **West of England Line** - we've been keeping stakeholders, especially the South West's MPs, fully briefed with Network Rail's proposed package of line improvements (longer passing loops, etc.). The project has made it into NR's official programme of works, and now the challenge is to ensure that Government funding will be forthcoming.
- **Railcards** - Over the past year, we've lobbied MPs about extending validity and taking positive steps to encourage people back onto rail.
- **Train operator issues** - We've raised accepting each other's Smart Cards and proposed timetable changes which would cause problems for passengers (eg: some Southern trains not continuing to Portsmouth Harbour; also Cross Country service cuts).
- **GTR franchise** - In June 2020, we contributed to the consultation, calling for a better Sunday service for West Coastway, some Southampton trains to run via Eastleigh serving the airport, and paths for open-access services between Brighton and the South West.

Mike Southgate Chair 15.04.21