

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* edition



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.

Let the train – take the brain strain!

How times change! Tired of Teams? Zoom fatigued? Then see [this](#) from the Rail Delivery Group and University College London: “Commuting by train and breaking out of the work from home cycle can benefit your wellbeing, and improve your productivity, even if it’s just a couple of days a week.” Who’d-a thought it!



“Make the most of ‘me time’”

Growing majorities of rail users (now up to 89%) and non-rail users (now up to 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”.

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

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

Britain’s Growing Railway in London & South East: November birthdays

- ~ Southbury, Theobalds Grove, Turkey Street – 1960
- ~ Basildon – 1974 (25 years after being a New Town)
- ~ Channel Tunnel, Waterloo Curve / Stewarts Lane Viaduct, Waterloo International – 1994
- ~ Braintree Freeport, Luton Airport Parkway – 1999
- ~ HS1 phase 2 (Southfleet Jct to London St. Pancras International), and Ebbsfleet International – 2007
- ~ Stratford International – 2009

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the October edition, no.40, of *inter-railse*, Railfuture’s London and South East members have:

~ joined the first live meeting since early-2020 of the Friends of London Transport Museum, with guest speaker Sir Peter Hendy CBE. The invitation-only audience included ‘pandemic presenter via YouTube’ Roger Blake on “[The development of TfL Overground](#)” which had been broadcast earlier this year.

~ held regular **online** meetings of our Herts & Beds and Sussex & Coastway Divisions.

~ contributed to the **online** SCRP Steering Group for the North Downs Line.

~ contributed at their request in the London Assembly Transport Committee’s discussion on the future of rail and transport in London.

~ attended the autumn gathering of the South Coast Alliance for Transport and the Environment - advertised theme: “Does new housing development have to mean more traffic and more roads? Are there other options?”

~ participated in the annual conference of sub-national transport body England’s Economic Heartland.

~ participated in SCRP’s event at Kent & East Sussex Railway for MarshLink and 1066 line stakeholders.

~ participated in the **online** Kent Rail Summit.

~ presented to the Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts’ Society on Hoo Peninsula Railway developments.

~ contributed to the third round of Network Rail’s North & East Kent Connectivity Study.

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

London and South East branch members have also:

~ finalised our responses to West Sussex CC’s and Surrey CC’s draft Transport Plans, and MHCLG / DLUHC’s “*Creating a vision for the Ox-Cam Arc*”.

~ followed-up our contribution in the London Assembly Transport Committee’s discussion on the future of rail and transport in London, specifically on fares.

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

* **COP26** stands for the [26th Conference of the Parties](#) to the UNFCCC, which is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - a treaty agreed in 1994.

What shall we be doing this month?

- ~ holding regular **online** meetings of our Eastern, Kent, and Sussex & Coastway Divisions.
- ~ contributing to an alternate-monthly meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.
- ~ participating in East Midlands Railway's conference for stakeholders.
- ~ contributing to an alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee, in Buxted.
- ~ contributing to the SCRIP Annual General Meeting and Steering Group for the MarshLink Line.



- ~ participating in the People's Climate Assembly on sustainable housing and transport, Lewes Climate Hub.
- ~ participating in Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Public Transport Forum.
- ~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.
- ~ drafting our response to Gatwick Airport Ltd's consultation on their Future Plans to bring the existing Northern Runway into routine use.

***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.*

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Wednesday 3 November *"Abbey Wood to Ebbsfleet Connectivity Study – how should we invest in transport to deliver the government's vision for this part of the Thames Estuary?"* Free evening **webinar**.

Wednesday 3 November *"Delivering new homes and community facilities in Ringmer."* Closing date for responses to Croudace Homes' second consultation.

Thursday 4 November *"East-West Rail Phase 2 track design and earthworks."* Free lunchtime **webinar**.

Thursday 4 November *"Future plans at Gatwick Airport – an overview for civil engineers."* Free evening **webinar**.

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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Thursday 4 November Sussex & Coastway Division evening meeting, **online**. [Invite non-members!](#)

Tuesday 9 November *"Engineering the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway."* Free afternoon **webinar**.

Tuesday 9 November *"Crossrail trains – test and service experience."* Free evening **webinar**.

Wednesday 10 November *"Build better now: planning for transport and connectivity."* Free lunchtime **webinar**.

Wednesday 10 November *"Decarbonising diesel – Class 170 Eminox Project."* Free evening **webinar**.

Wednesday 10 November Eastern Division evening meeting, **online**. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 11 November *"Innovative Network Rail FLOW footbridge."* Free lunchtime **webinar**.

Thursday 11 November *"Rethinking appraisal and prioritisation of transport infrastructure investment."* Free evening **hybrid** lecture.

Monday 15 November Transport Planning Day.

Wednesday 17 November *"The Williams Shapps Plan for Rail: accelerating innovation and modernisation."* Free morning **webinar**.

Thursday 18 November *"Net Zero, government policies, and implementation responsibilities."* Evening **webinar**.

Saturday 20 November The Dartmoor Line: regular GWR services start between Exeter and Okehampton.

Saturday 20 November Kent Division afternoon meeting, **online**. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 25 November Office of Rail & Road's estimates of station usage for 2020/21 published.

Thursday 25 November *"Luton DART (Direct Air-Rail Transit)."* Free evening **webinar**.

Thursday 25 November *"Containers by rail from China to UK."* Evening **webinar**.

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

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.

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