

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

“Creating a simpler, better railway for everyone in Britain” – GBRTT

“The Great British Railways Transition Team seeks to deliver the most ambitious changes to our railways in a generation....” Railfuture heeded the Call for Evidence for its Whole Industry Strategic Plan, required to “set five long-term objectives for the railway focusing on:

- ~ meeting customers' needs
- ~ delivering financial sustainability
- ~ contributing to long-term economic growth
- ~ levelling up and connectivity
- ~ delivering environmental sustainability.” – Grant Shapps.

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.

COVID-19 briefing to Railfuture members

Confidence of rail users (now back up to 88%) and of non-rail users (back up to 62%) about travelling safely by train has returned strongly over the past month. Source: Transport Focus weekly [Tracking Research](#).

Click [here](#) to subscribe to “Transport User Voice”.

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

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the New Year 2022 edition of *inter-railse* no.43, Railfuture's London and South East members have:

~ indulged in a '12th-night' day trip to the Isle of Wight:



Three of your regional branch committee - pic by branch Vice-Chair

~ participated in an **online** meeting of Southeast CRP's North Downs Line CRP Steering Group.

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

~ joined an **online** briefing for stakeholders on the public consultation about the draft Transport Strategy of sub-national transport body Transport East.

~ participated in the second national Railfuture **webinar** “Rail recovery – how to realise the potential”. Click [here](#) to watch / listen again to the 90-minute YouTube.

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

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

~ joined an **online** briefing for Herts County Council's consultation on Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit.

~ noted the submission to Lewes District Council of two more applications for outline planning permission for a total of up to 300 new homes in Ringmer.

~ joined the first **online** session of the new All-Party Parliamentary Group for the South East hearing four presentations for its inquiry “Financing for the future – what does levelling up mean for South East England?”

Also during January, regional branch committee have co-ordinated and submitted our responses to:

- ~ Medway Council's consultation on “Future Hoo”.
- ~ the Call for Evidence by the APPG for the South East for its inquiry “Financing for the future – what does levelling up mean for South East England?”
- ~ Hertfordshire County Council's consultation on HERT - Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit.
- ~ sub-national transport body Transport East's consultation on its draft Transport Strategy.

All Railfuture submissions can be found in our library via the website's home page, and [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.

What shall we be doing this month?

~ participating in an **online** meeting of the Southeast CRP's MarshLink CRP Steering Group.

~ participating in the **online** annual joint meeting of Southeast CRP's Uckfield / East Grinstead and Tonbridge-Redhill / Reigate CRP Steering Groups.

~ participating **online** in GTR's annual stakeholder conference.

~ observing the official opening of the step-free access at Eridge station.

~ joining the second **online** session of the APPG for the South East for its inquiry “Financing for the future – what does levelling up mean for South East England?”

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

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

Britain's Growing Railway in London and South East: February birthdays

~ on the 7th, in 1966, Garston, Herts. Probably the first new, rather than reopened or relocated, post-Beeching rail station, with c.75k entries and exits in 2019/20. (Not to be confused with Garston, Lancs. It reopened on 2nd January 1978 after a 6-year closure, and then closed permanently the day before Liverpool South Parkway station opened on 11 June 2006.)

~ on the 28th, in 2011, the Dalston Junction-Highbury & Islington extension of London Overground services from Crystal Palace and West Croydon, just 4 months short of 25 years since the last train on 27th June 1986.

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Saturday 15 January - mid-May London Underground Northern line closed between Moorgate - Kennington for Bank station upgrade works.

Monday 31 January Nominations closed for 2022 L&SE regional branch committee, full committee of 4 officers + 6 members to be elected for a 1-year term.

Tuesday 1 February Nominations close for 2022 Board of Directors, 3 to be elected for a 3-year term.

Tuesday 1 February Copy date for your campaign news, letters, articles, photos to appear in April's *railwatch* no.171. Send to editor@railwatch.org.uk

Tuesday 1 February "Crime prevention on the railway." Free evening [webinar](#).

Thursday 3 February Sussex & Coastway Division evening [online](#) meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday/Sunday 5/6 February Bishops Stortford track-works affect West Anglia route.

Sunday 6 February No Portsmouth Harbour services during strengthening works to Landport Viaduct.

Thursday 10 February Close of TfL consultation on "Shaping the future of step-free access on the Tube."

Saturday 12 February Herts & Beds Division morning [online](#) meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 12-Sunday 20 February Guildford-Petersfield services suspended for upgrade works.

Tuesday 15 February "Network Rail's sustainability policy." Free lunchtime [webinar](#).

Saturday/Sunday 12/13 February Closure of Brighton Main line south of Three Bridges.



Saturday 19-Sunday 27 February Half-term closure of Brighton Main line south of Three Bridges.

Saturday 19 February Kent Division afternoon [online](#) meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Monday 21-Sunday 27 February Staines-Windsor & Eton Riverside services suspended for re-signalling.

Tuesday 22 February "TfL's Decarbonisation and Environmental Strategy." Free lunchtime [webinar](#).

Wednesday 23 February "Flooding: vegetation control." Free evening [webinar](#).

Saturday 26 February East Anglia branch open afternoon meeting, Bury St. Edmunds. Presentation on Railfuture-funded regional rail needs assessment.

Saturday 19-Sunday 20 March London & South East regional branch stall at rail exhibition in Ally Pally, N22.

Saturday 16 April Closing date for nominations for Rail User Group Awards 2021-22.



Saturday 30 April London and South East regional branch annual open meeting (with AGM).

Saturday 16 July National AGM with presentations for Campaigner of the Year and RUG Awards, Bristol.

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

Website: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) Twitter: [@RailfutureLSE](#)

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