

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

New London Metro service starts!

Our regional branch's most populous Division (c.25% of the whole L&SE branch membership) is now offering a service to members, both current and potential, since its first and very well-attended meeting, an in-person get-together in central London on 17th January.

One immediate 'task and finish' item for the Division is a Rail Manifesto for this May's elections for the Mayor of London and 25 members of the London Assembly (AMs) – 14 representing constituencies and 11 elected London-wide. Two previous examples, in the branch website, were for 2016 and 2021 (delayed from 2020 by the pandemic). It was decided to hold another meeting this month, **online**, in order to expedite progress. The due date will be Monday 19th February.

Our vision for Railfuture: *An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision makers come for advice, which rail users are proud to join and recommend.*

What shall we be doing this month?

London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, will be:-

~ consulting internally on our responses to:

Lewes District Council's [consultation](#) on 'spatial strategy and policies directions' for its new Local Plan (2020-40), closing 19th February (extended from 8th);

Medway Council's consultation on the [Hoo St. Werburgh-Chattenden Neighbourhood Plan](#), also closing 19th February;

East Sussex County Council's [survey](#) for its draft Local Transport Plan 4 (2024-50), closing 25th February;

England's Economic Heartland SNTB's Call for Evidence on the [Connectivity Study for the Luton – Bedford - Corby corridor](#), closing 29th February;

~ participating in two East Sussex County Council workshops for stakeholder organisations to develop the second County Rail Strategy, the first adopted in late-2013, and to develop a Freight Strategy.

~ in this leap year, noting the anniversary of Jessie's Seat (aka the Chilworth chicken) on the North Downs Line. See branch newsletters [railse no.143 March 2019](#) page 3 and [railse no.147 March 2020](#) page 5;

~ holding regular **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Kent and Herts & Beds Divisions;

~ holding a regular **online** meeting of L&SE regional branch's committee.

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-January edition of **inter-railse** no.67, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

~ participated in a drop-in event in Ringmer for Lewes District Council's consultation for its new Local Plan.



~ run a weekend Kent Division campaigns stall at the annual rail exhibition in the Longfield Academy.

~ participated in East Midlands Railway's annual stakeholder conference at Trent Bridge, Nottingham.

~ participated in a National Infrastructure Commission **webinar** "Investing in connectivity to support growth across all regions."

~ participated in Southeast CRP's Strategic Advisory Board.

~ held a regular evening **online** meeting of our Eastern Division, a morning meeting of our Herts & Beds Division and the inaugural meeting of our London Metro Division (both in-person in central London), and an in-person Sussex & Coastway social in Lewes.

~ held a regular **online** meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee.

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, slumping to less than 9k in 2020/21 and recovering slightly to over 18k in 2021/22, then almost 42k in 2022/23.

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

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.*

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Thursday 1 February Sussex & Coastway Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 10 – Sunday 18 February Major works suspend Southern and Thameslink services in south London and London Overground Clapham Junction services.

Monday 12 February Herts & Beds Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 17 February Kent Division **online** afternoon meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Monday 19 February London Metro Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 22 February ORR publishes Regional Rail Usage 2022/23 - passenger journeys data for each Region of Great Britain, including journeys between Regions, within Regions, and between England, Scotland and Wales.

Friday 23 February ORR publishes Passenger rail performance: Cancellations data for Period 11, 7 January - 3 February.

Tuesday 27 February Preliminary Meeting, in-person and **online**, held by the Planning Inspectorate for the application by Gatwick Airport Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project.

Wednesday 28 February Open Floor Hearings, in-person and **online**, morning and evening, held by the Planning Inspectorate for the application by Gatwick Airport Limited for the Northern Runway Project DCO.

Thursday 29 February Issue-Specific Hearing, in-person and **online**, morning only, held by the Planning Inspectorate for the application by Gatwick Airport Limited for the Northern Runway Project DCO.

Thursday 29 February Closing date for nominations to Branch Committee.

Thursday 7 March Sussex & Coastway Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 16 / Sunday 17 March Railfuture L&SE regional branch campaigns stall at London Festival of Railway Modelling, Alexandra Palace, London N22.

Thursday 21 March London Metro Division evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Easter Saturday 30 March Nominations close for Railfuture's national Rail User Group Awards 2024.



Saturday 20 April London & South East regional branch open morning meeting and members-only afternoon AGM.

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

Railfuture is 'in the news' / 'making the news' / sharing 'news and views'

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture members making, not just watching, things happen in our website [media extracts](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture making, not just reporting, the news through our [press releases](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture's and others' reports and thoughts published in our [website articles](#).

~ Railfuture is active on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [LinkedIn](#).

Be in it to win it - join Railfuture's Lottery!

Members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – can support Railfuture by joining our monthly [lottery](#).

Railfuture publications by email

~ All members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – are being encouraged to receive [Railwatch](#) direct to their Inbox immediately on publication by logging-in at [Member services](#).

~ receive Railfuture's regular monthly newsletter [Rail User Express](#) direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk

~ receive Railfuture's occasional [Rail Action](#) bulletin direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk

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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