

The **quarterly** branch newsletter of **railfuture** in London and the South East

Britain's leading *independent* campaign for a bigger better railway – for passengers and freight

## Can't stop the votes!

Barely had the dust settled after various local elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (see report on next page) than a UK-wide general election was called for Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July. The new Parliament will first meet on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July, with the State Opening expected on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

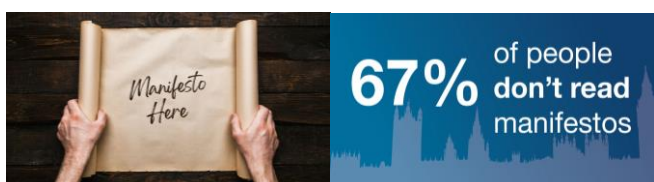


Polling station station in North Yorkshire

Railfuture members and others will already be familiar with our 10-point Rail Action Plan, first published as a [website article](#) in February.



It is now being used across our various social media outlets to boost our organisation's profile and message ahead of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, as a quasi-manifesto.



Engaging with candidates will be complicated this time by constituency boundary changes, viewable thanks to the House of Commons Library and linked [here](#).

## Railfuture – pro-rail influencer

Launched formally (virtually) in April 2021, under the chairmanship of Hastings & Rye MP Sally-Ann Hart, the APPG for the South East has held two inquiries each of which has drawn a response from Railfuture.

The first, in 2021, was "*Financing for the future – what does Levelling-Up mean for South East England?*" and we responded to the Call for Evidence in January 2022. The final report was then published that July.

The second, later in 2022, was "*The South East and Global Britain – what role for transport infrastructure in underpinning Britain's plan to trade and grow?*" We responded to the Call for Evidence in February 2023 and the final report was published in mid-May 2024.

Regional branch Vice-Chair, and national Infrastructure & Networks Director Roger Blake had been invited to an evidence session for the second inquiry, and now finds himself quoted extensively in the final report!

Railfuture's responses to the Calls for Evidence are in our website; see 'Campaigns'/'Consultation responses.' The two APPG-SE reports can be found in the website for South East Councils, under 'News & Activity.'



"This report was researched and funded by South East Councils. This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All-Party Parliamentary Groups are informal groups of members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues. The views expressed in this report are those of the Group."

## Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

As first reported in our monthly e-bulletin *inter-railse* no.61 for July 2023, Network Rail had launched their master-planning process for [Bow Goods Yard](#) in June.

After various public drop-in sessions and concept design exhibitions, a [freight campus masterplan](#) has now been submitted, aiming to [regenerate 30 acres of brownfield land](#) at Bow Goods Yard.

## Fixed-term administrations - results

Exploiting an opportunity to exert some influence, and generate some media awareness of Railfuture in the process, the regional branch through its newly-active London Metro Division set about formulating and then launching a Rail Manifesto for London ahead of May's Mayoral and Assembly elections in London.

### A Rail Manifesto for London Elections 2024 **railfuture**

London's public transport is an essential component of a vibrant, efficient and effective city. It allows everyone to move around easily and quickly and, together with active travel, it reduces car use, with the associated issues of pollution, inefficient use of road space and cost to the user.

We call for 10 tasks to deliver better transport for London:

1 A unified rail system under the direction of its Mayor	2 Four trains per hour minimum service	London rail services need to be <b>FREQUENT, RELIABLE, PUNCTUAL, AFFORDABLE and ACCESSIBLE</b>	Rail travel is the best form of transport in urban areas, particularly so in London: Rail is <b>FAST, SAFE, and ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY</b>
3 Discrepancies in service quality north and south of the Thames resolved	4 A system that is better maintained, with newer trains		
5 Fares that are fair for everyone (not just digitally savvy users with bank cards)	6 Ticketing that is simple and user friendly (maintain Travelcards & Oyster and link Railcards to bankcards)		
7 A system that is free of 'access discrimination'	8 Stations with adequate facilities and staff, that are safe		
9 Planned improvements actioned (West London orbital, Bakerloo line extension, DLR to Thamesmead)	10 Longer term infrastructure projects initiated (Elizabeth Line and Croydon tram extensions, Crossrail 2 & 3)	<p>London's complex transportation needs means investment in rail is imperative. London's rail services need to be <b>SUSTAINABLE and FIT FOR FUTURE NEEDS</b></p>	

Learn about the tasks we have set in more detail: [www.railfuture.org.uk/London-Metro](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/London-Metro)

Campaigning for a bigger, better, railway. Join us today at [railfuture.org.uk/join](http://railfuture.org.uk/join)

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Summary: 5 changes of control (so 23 none) – in Adur, Basildon, Castle Point, Thurrock, and Tunbridge Wells.

Railise occasionally singles out individuals, and it is considered appropriate to mark the departure from the London Assembly of one particular and note-worthy individual following her many years of public service.



Caroline Pidgeon MBE (New Years Honours 2013) had led her party group on the London Assembly for 14 years, and had been a member since 2008. March 2024 saw her last day in the chamber, because the London elections kicked into action and, as announced back in November 2022, she was not standing again.

Caroline had been Co-Chair of the Transport Committee for 16 years, and had asked an amazing 8,235 Mayoral Questions (the most of any Assembly Member ever since its establishment in 2000).

That morning Mayor of London Sadiq Khan paid a warm tribute to her, and then launched into a response to the question she had submitted which asked him what he has done to lobby for further devolution for London and what further powers he would support for both the GLA as a whole and the London Assembly, which currently only serves as a scrutiny body for the Mayor of London with limited powers of its own.

Caroline also called on the Mayor to set up a third London Finance Commission to present to the next incoming UK Government for more fiscal devolution and options for raising finance to fund infrastructure and services in the capital.

Alongside this, looking at the new Devolution deals with far-reaching new powers in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands, which give the regional authorities a single funding settlement similar to Scotland and Wales, she said:

*"On my final Mayor's question after 16 years on the Assembly, I want to leave the Mayor of London and others with some ambitious targets going forward.*

*"Over the last few years, we have seen the UK Government announce wide-ranging devolution deals for other urban areas including single funding pots and powers covering regional rail services, health and social care.*

*"Meanwhile London seems to have been left behind. I want to see the Mayor of London put forward an ambitious ask of any new incoming UK Government after the General Election that will give London the powers, levers and the finances to achieve the best possible results for our residents and to truly represent the global powerhouse it is.*

*"It is also important to see the London Assembly granted further powers to ensure that the Mayor is properly held to account and that Londoners are truly represented in decision-making processes by our City's leaders."*

Launched with a press release in mid-March, the Manifesto's 10 tasks were then promoted via social media on 10 successive days in mid-April. A letter of congratulation to the re-elected Mayor of London rounded off the two-month phase of influencing activity.

Elsewhere around the regional branch area, changes:

# Two unitary authorities electing one-third of their councillors this year (no elections every fourth year): Southend-on-Sea (**NOC**), Thurrock (**Con>Lab**).

# Eight district councils electing all of their councillors: Basildon (**Con>NOC**), Epping Forest (**Con**), Harlow (**Con**), Maidstone (**NOC**), North Herts (**NOC**), Stevenage (**Lab**), Tandridge (**NOC**), Tunbridge Wells (**NOC>LD**)

# Two district councils electing half of their councillors: Adur (**Con>Lab**), Hastings (**NOC**).

# 16 district councils electing a third of their councillors: Brentwood (**NOC**), Broxbourne (**Con**), Castle Point (**NOC>PIP**), Colchester (**NOC**), Crawley (**Lab**), Elmbridge (**NOC**), Mole Valley (**LD**), Reigate & Banstead (**Con**), Rochford (**NOC**), Runnymede (**NOC**), St. Albans (**LD**), Three Rivers (**LD**), Watford (**LD**), Welwyn Hatfield (**NOC**), Woking (**LD**), Worthing (**Lab**).

28 L&SE councils voted, now 12 **NOC** (was 13), 6 **LD**, (was 5), 5 **Lab**, (was 3), 4 **Con**, (was 7), + 1 **PIP** (new). **PIP** = People's Independent Party (Castle Point, Essex)

## Britain's Growing Railway – a bigger better railway in London & South East

Here are second-quarter anniversaries of our regional successes: 30 new / re-opened stations, one new service, five extended services, and four new chords:

### April

~ on the 27<sup>th</sup>, in 2010, London Overground 'preview' services ran north from New Cross and New Cross Gate beyond Whitechapel on the East London Line's new northern extension.

~ on the 27<sup>th</sup>, in 2010, Dalston Junction (first opened 1 November 1865, closed 30 June 1986), Haggerston, Hoxton, and Shoreditch High Street new stations.

### May

~ on the 12<sup>th</sup>, in 1980, Hackney Central, Hackney Wick and Moulsecoomb stations.

~ on the 12<sup>th</sup>, in 1986, passenger services between Kensington Olympia and the WCML via Willesden.

~ on the 13<sup>th</sup>, in 1985, Homerton station.

~ on the 14<sup>th</sup>, in 1979, West Ham Low Level station.

Dalston<->Stratford (Camden Road<->North Woolwich).

~ on the 14<sup>th</sup>, in 1984, Bedford St. Johns station.

~ on the 15<sup>th</sup>, in 2016, Lea Bridge station.

~ on the 16<sup>th</sup>, in 1988, Farringdon <-> Blackfriars.

~ on the 17<sup>th</sup>, in 1982, Watton-at-Stone station.

~ on the 17<sup>th</sup>, in 1983, Dalston Kingsland station (first opened 9 November 1850, closed 1 November 1865).

~ on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, in 2010, New Cross Gate Down Junction (for full London Overground services from the new East London Line northern extension through to Crystal Palace and West Croydon stations).

~ on the 24<sup>th</sup>, in 2022, Elizabeth Line's Abbey Wood, Woolwich, Custom House, Canary Wharf, Whitechapel, Liverpool Street, Farringdon, Tottenham Court Road, Paddington stations.

~ on the 29<sup>th</sup>, in 1990, St. Paul's, later City, Thameslink station.

~ on the 29<sup>th</sup>, in 1994, Mitre Bridge Curve (WLL<->NLL) and Sheepcote Lane Curve (SWML <-> WLL).

~ on the 30<sup>th</sup>, in 1995, Chafford Hundred station.

~ on the 30<sup>th</sup>, in 1999, West Ham High Level station and West Brompton station mainline platforms.

~ on the 31<sup>st</sup>, in 1994, passenger trains return between Kensington Olympia <-> Willesden Junction High Level.

### June

~ on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, in 2008, Mitcham Eastfields station.

~ on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, in 2019, Meridian Water station.

~ on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, in 1998, Heathrow Airport Junction <-> Heathrow Terminal 4 station (via Heathrow Terminals 1, 2 & 3 station).

~ on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, in 1998, Heathrow Terminals 1, 2 & 3 station (later Terminals 2 & 3, now Heathrow Central station) and Heathrow Terminal 4 station.

~ on the 26<sup>th</sup>, in 2013, Hitchin ('Down Cambridge') flyover.

Stay up-to-date and lend your support via our website pages under 'Campaigns' > 'Restoring Your Railway' – it includes links to 'Missing links' and 'New stations.' See also '[Current London and South East campaigns.](#)'

**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.

## Railfuture Awards - Rail User Groups



The Easter Saturday closing date for nominations saw just seven nominations across four of the six award categories from four of our 14 branches – North East, North West, Scotland, and West Midlands. As in both previous in-person national Annual General Meetings, the plan is for presentations of winners of Awards and Commendations to follow the next national AGM which is to be held in Edinburgh on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Details in <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/RUG-Awards>

## Community Rail Network

Community Rail Award winners within our regional branch area were announced in March at a gala in Swansea. A very special mention to those entering in the **Most Enhanced Railway Spaces** category for scooping all three prizes for London & the South East, and to our RUG Awards winner Barbara Mine from Bishopstone Community Hub for her richly-deserved **Outstanding Volunteer Contribution** award!



**Community Creative Projects and Station Arts** – sponsored by Avanti West Coast

# Small groups:

~ The Camberwell Society – [Denmark Hill Station Art Trail](#) – winner.

**Most Effective Communications Campaign** – sponsored by West Midlands Trains

~ Southeast Communities Rail Partnership – [Community Rail 'Coronation Connections'](#) – 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Photo Competition: Capturing the essence of community rail** – sponsored by Porterbrook

~ Beds & Herts CRP and Friends of St. Albans Abbey station – [A First-Class Entry in the Backtrack Competition](#) – 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Most Enhanced Railway Spaces** – sponsored by Greater Anglia

~ Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust – [Restoration of Bricket Wood Station](#) – 1<sup>st</sup>.

~ Friends of Bishopstone Station and Southeast CRP – [Bishopstone Community Hub](#) – 2<sup>nd</sup>.

~ Hollingbourne Parish Council, Kent CRP and Southeastern – [The Station at Hollingbourne](#) – 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Outstanding Volunteer Contribution** – sponsored by Eversholt Rail

~ [Barbara Mine – Bishopstone Community Hub](#)

**It's Your Station** – sponsored by Merseyrail

~ [Whyteleafe Community Hub](#) – Silver.

## Transport for the South East Transport Strategy refresh!

Through the London & South East regional branch's Vice-Chair Railfuture is represented in the Transport Forum of Transport for the South East. As the area of the sub-national transport body includes Hampshire and the six unitary authorities which comprise former Berkshire, he is also our national Board's formal liaison with both Wessex and Thames Valley branches.

The April Transport Forum, held in-person in central London, was a full-day workshop with the theme: "Where should we focus transport investment in tough financial times?" Highlighting the challenges the UK faces in terms of the country's finances, environment and transport network, the reasons behind the need to refresh the Transport Strategy were outlined; TfSE's Partnership Board had agreed the principle of a refresh in July 2023. Since the initial Transport Strategy was adopted in 2020 (having been drafted in pre-pandemic times), there have been changes to travel patterns due to the pandemic, government policy changes, the increasing importance of decarbonisation, and EU Exit.

Around the three continuing 'golden thread' priorities of Delivering economic growth, Protecting and Enhancing the Environment, and Maximising social inclusion, four core challenge themes were identified:

- Delivering a Just Transition
- Realising Economic Opportunities
- Embracing the Future
- Planning for Healthy and Connected Places.



This coincided with a period of public engagement, a survey to which Railfuture responded in early-June.

There are 7 options to structure the Transport Strategy:  
 Option 1 - Movement based framework - by movement type.  
 Option 2 - Modal framework - structured by mode.  
 Option 3 - Place based framework – by place typology.  
 Option 4 - Movement and place-based framework – structured by place and movement types.  
 Option 5 - People and goods-based framework – structured by different user groups.  
 Option 6 - Thematic framework - by objectives / outcomes / priorities applicable across places and movement types.  
 Option 7 - 'Big Missions' Framework - structured around a set of key topics – including modal, thematic, and delivery-focussed which have a single, coherent narrative and set of objectives addressed by a range of interventions for different place and movement types.

TfSE officers commend the 'Big Missions Framework.'

The full timeline is in four stages:

- # July 2023 – December 2024: Strategy development
- # December 2024 – March 2025: public consultation
- # March – July 2025: finalise Strategy
- # July – October 2025: local transport authority sign-off followed by presentation to central government.

Full details of the most recent report to the TfSE Partnership Board, on 13 May 2024, are in the TfSE website 'Meetings & Minutes' at [agenda item 13](#).

## TfSE rail – west of East Sussex: Brighton - East Sussex - Kent BTN-FMR-LWS-UCK-COH-ERI-TBW

From mid-March to mid-May, Wealden District Council ran a public consultation on their draft Local Plan for the period to 2040.



The regional branch's response commented only on the chapter on Infrastructure and in particular Policy INF5: Safeguarding of Infrastructure. We supported the two principles of an Uckfield-Lewes rail link and an Eridge-Tunbridge Wells rail link. We cautioned against any assumption that reinstatement of the historic route of the former alignment via Hamsey is the only route option for a new Uckfield-Lewes rail link. We also questioned whether introduction of mainline services between Eridge and Tunbridge Wells would involve the retention or the removal of the Spa Valley Railway's heritage operations. Clarity on the destination station of such services in Tunbridge Wells is also required.

### An Uckfield-Lewes link, but not as we thought?

In mid-May Wealden District Council's Cabinet decided "a) To welcome the partnership work currently being undertaken to explore the creation of a Greenway between Uckfield and Lewes;  
 b) To agree that a scoping exercise be undertaken, and a report produced to assess the feasibility of a new Greenway between Uckfield and Lewes; and  
 c) To approve the provision of financial support to commission a scoping exercise to ascertain the feasibility of a new Greenway."



As bids to the DfT's Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund "To re-open the Lewes to Uckfield & Tunbridge Wells to Eridge/Ashurst Brighton Main Line" failed not once but twice, and TfSE's next step is another yet-to-be-funded feasibility study, Railfuture meanwhile looks forward to publication of the Greenway feasibility report.

See more about [Railfuture's Uckfield-Lewes campaign](#)

## TfSE rail – north Kent:

Medway – Gravesham / Tonbridge & Malling

HMK-GRV-DFD-ABW-GNW-LBG

HMK-HGM-SOO-RTR-CTM-GLM-RAI

HMK-HGM-SOO-SDA-MDB-PDW-TON

A Community Infrastructure Framework for the Hoo Peninsula was the focus for public drop-in events in May. They followed the consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Hoo St. Werburgh and Chattenden, to which we had responded in February. Further details on the Community Infrastructure Framework are in Medway Council's website, [here](#).



Hoo village - community facilities on the Hoo Peninsula

Meanwhile, Southeastern moved forward in May with their procurement of a fleet to replace the 30-year-old Networkers. Five short-listed firms were invited to bid.



One of the six points highlighted as a key requirement is “Onboard batteries to keep trains running in the event of power supply failure as well as enhancing safety in stations, depots and sidings.” It’s a very open secret that having a battery capability would also enable the introduction of passenger services to and from a new station at Hoo St. Werburgh, whether to and from the third rail at Hoo Junction for connections with Gravesend and beyond, or at a new Higham Junction for connections with Strood and beyond.

Another of the six key requirements is “Improved accessibility to maximise unassisted boarding – developed alongside The Rail Safety & Standards Board, Network Rail and manufacturers.” No surprises then, that Stadler is one of the invited bidders, along with Alstom, CAF, Hitachi, and Siemens. See our previous coverage in *railse* no.158 for December 2022.

See our original [January 2020 article](#), and updates

## Rail transport for new homes on the Hoo Peninsula, Medway

One of the shortcomings of the unsuccessful Housing Infrastructure Fund initiative was its limitation in only looking westwards for passenger service destinations, when the economic geography of the area would point more naturally towards the Medway Towns and the county town of Maidstone. A new east-south chord linking Hoo with Higham would be warmly welcomed by the freight operators using the Grain Branch, too.



Medway Valley Line Extension – to Hoo St. Werburgh?

With three other potential partners waiting in the wings, will this be the Hoo Peninsula Railway Development Alliance (HPRDA) which will come together to deliver?



**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.

## “50 more from '24!” - AfA in CP7

Late-afternoon on the last Friday of the outgoing Parliament, the DfT announced the Access for All programme for the next five years 2024-29, covering Network Rail's new Control Period 7.



The announcement says “a total of 310 nominations were received from Network Rail, train operating companies and other strategic transport organisations such as combined authorities.” “Ministers have agreed the list of 50 additional stations selected for initial feasibility work and if that is successful, will be taken forward as part of the AfA programme.” “The £350 million to fund even more station projects was confirmed when [untruth omitted].” “The first stations to benefit from the additional funding are listed below.”

The regional allocations across Britain are East of England 3, East Midlands 4, London 8, North East 0, North West 9, Scotland 4, South East 9, South West 5, Wales 3, West Midlands 4, Yorkshire & Humberside 1.

Within our regional branch area the 16 stations, with ORR's estimated station usage in 2022/23:

<b>Dalston Kingsland</b>	<b>4,564,214</b>
<b>Upminster</b>	<b>4,406,368</b>
<b>Raynes Park</b>	<b>2,939,854</b>
<b>Gunnorsbury</b>	<b>1,775,524</b>
<b>Leagrave (Herts)</b>	<b>1,380,408</b>
<b>Kidbrooke</b>	<b>1,200,958</b>
<b>Bushey (Herts)</b>	<b>1,000,848</b>
<b>Kew Bridge</b>	<b>952,424</b>
<b>High Brooms (Kent)</b>	<b>923,648</b>
<b>Esher (Surrey)</b>	<b>752,322</b>
<b>South Croydon</b>	<b>733,102</b>
<b>Maidstone West (Kent)</b>	<b>642,466</b>
<b>Marden (Kent)</b>	<b>407,464</b>
<b>Battle (East Sussex)</b>	<b>400,814</b>
<b>Wivelsfield (West Sussex)</b>	<b>393,590</b>
<b>Ash Vale (Surrey)</b>	<b>303,058</b>

N.B. South Croydon was already in the 2019-24 AfA programme, one of 12 announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Spring Budget in March 2020 and as reported in *railse* no.148 for June 2020.

N.B. Conspicuous by its absence is Dorking Deepdene with estimated entries and exits in 2022/23 of 421,572!

Elsewhere in the Transport for the South East area:

Swanwick (Hants)	484,578
Hedge End (Hants)	339,956

## Transport watchdog's new bark

Transport Focus published its new Business Plan on 22 May and set out an “exciting” programme of work over the next three years. The Plan marks a key milestone for the organisation with a new leadership team and a refresh of the organisation's structure.



Commitments to transport users are to work with the people who run the country's transport network to:

~ **Improve transport in ways that matters most to users:** This means improving satisfaction in the end-to-end experience for people who travel by bus, train and by road.

~ **Make transport safe and accessible for everyone who uses it:** Investigating and improving the experience of personal security on bus and train and making travelling by public transport and road far more accessible.

~ **Minimise the impact of disruption:** When bus and rail passengers are disrupted or drivers encounter significant delays of any kind, every step is taken to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum.

~ **Make sure all transport users are listened to:** Understanding the barriers to travel, particularly in under-represented groups such as disabled people or those whose first language isn't English.

The twice-yearly **National Rail Passenger Survey** is no more (since the Spring 2020 report), so long live the four-weekly **Rail User Survey!**



Sign up to receive 'Transport User Voice' direct to your Inbox: <https://www.transportfocus.org.uk/newsletter/>

## Campaigns calendar, London & SE

In April London & South East regional branch members had their annual meeting, with guest speakers Andy Bagnall from the Rail Delivery Group and Stephen Gasche from Otterpool Park Garden Town in the morning, and then an afternoon AGM.

In May Kent Division had a weekend campaigns stall at the Faversham Festival of Transport. KenEx Tram, Kent Community Rail Partnership and Southeastern shared the space – in the Guildhall Mayor's Parlour!

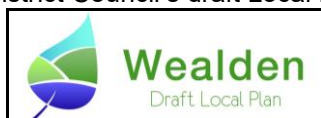
In June the London & South East regional branch's gazebo and “*Bridge the gap*” campaign banner and stall returned to Luxford Field in central Uckfield, for the Uckfield & District Lions Club Family Fun Day.

Our **campaigning has continued** through responding to consultations and calls for evidence and making other submissions, such as to local planning and transport authorities and to transport watchdogs.

**Current consultations** of general interest to our London and South East regional branch area are in the **"What's on"** section of the website, within **'Rail dates'**, and linked [here](#); of specific regional branch interest are in the branch website and linked [here](#).

Since the March newsletter, *railse* no.163, went to press the regional branch committee has overseen submissions to / participation in:

# Wealden District Council's draft Local Plan;



# Transport for the South East's survey ahead of its Transport Strategy refresh;

# Medway Council's public drop-in events for a Community Infrastructure Framework for the Hoo Peninsula, to inform the new Medway Local Plan.



Your opportunity to influence our responses to Calls for Evidence and Consultations, and policy development, is to email [londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk)

Our responses to all consultations and calls for evidence and submissions to planning bodies etc are in the **"Campaigns"** section of the main website, within **'Consultation responses'**, and linked [here](#). For our regional branch see **'Submissions'** [here](#).

## Forthcoming calendar / diary dates

**Thursday 27 June** Herts & Beds Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Thursday 27 June** ORR publishes Passenger rail service complaints: Q4 2023/24 (January – March).

**Thursday 27 June** ORR publishes Delay compensation claims: Periods 11-13 (7 January – 31 March 2024).

**Sunday 30 June** Central Bedfordshire consultation preparing for their draft Local Transport Plan closes.

**Monday 1 July** Railfuture Member of the Year award – close of nominations to [wendy.thorne@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:wendy.thorne@railfuture.org.uk)

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

**Thursday 11 July** ORR publishes Disabled Persons Railcards: Periods 11-13 (7 January – 31 March 2024).

**Thursday 11 July** ORR publishes Assisted journeys data for 2023/24.

**Friday 12 July** ORR publishes Passenger rail performance: Cancellations data for Period 3, (26 May – 22 June).

**Saturday 13 July** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Railfuture Ltd, then presentations of award for Railfuture Member of the Year and Rail User Group awards and commendations, at Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel, 81 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AU.

**Thursday 18 July** Sussex & Coastway Division evening meeting, in-person, Haywards Heath. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Thursday 18 July** London Metro Division evening meeting, in-person with speakers. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Thursday 18 July** ORR publishes annual Rail Fares Index for 2024.

**Thursday 25 July – Monday 2 September** Schools' holiday: >95% of the rail network remains open for customers! Enjoy your local heritage railways.

**Thursday 25 July** ORR publishes annual Occupational health data (number of legally reportable occupational diseases, and industry manual handling and shock or trauma incidents) for 2023/24.

**Tuesday 30 July** Herts & Beds Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Friday 9 August** ORR publishes Passenger rail performance: Cancellations data for Period 4, (23 June – 20 July).

**Saturday 17 August** Kent Division afternoon meeting.

**Friday 23 August** Copy date for your campaign news / reports for the London & South East regional branch Local Action column in October's **railwatch** no.181, and for September's **railse** no.165.

Send to [londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk)

**Monday 26 August** Copy date for your campaign news, letters, articles, photos to appear in October's **railwatch** no.181. Send to [editor@railwatch.org.uk](mailto:editor@railwatch.org.uk)

**Thursday 5 September** Sussex & Coastway Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Friday 6 September** ORR publishes Passenger rail performance: Cancellations data for Period 5, (21 July – 17 August).

**Saturday 7 September** Herts & Beds Division morning meeting, central London. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Wednesday 11 September** Eastern Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Thursday 12 September** ORR publishes Passenger rail performance: Q1 2024/25 (April – June 2024) - Public Performance Measure (PPM), Cancelled and Significantly Late (CaSL).

**Thursday 19 September** London Metro Division evening meeting, in-person. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Thursday 19 September** ORR publishes Freight rail usage and performance Q1 2024/25 (April - June 2024) - freight moved, freight lifted, normalised freight delay.

## Your branch divisions' meetings – all members, and non-members, welcome

**Eastern [s. Essex and n. & e. London]** – meets alternate months on second Wednesdays, **online** at 19.00 – next on **10 July**, then 11 September. Division Convener: [howard.thomas@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:howard.thomas@railfuture.org.uk). See [Eastern Division](#).

**Herts & Beds** – meets monthly – next in evenings of **27 June** then 30 July, both **online** at 19.30, then in-person morning of 7 September. Division Convener is Neil Middleton (opposite). See [Herts & Beds Division](#).

**Kent** – meets quarterly on third Saturdays, at 14.00 – next due on **17 August**. Division Convener: [chris.fribbins@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:chris.fribbins@railfuture.org.uk) See [Kent Division](#).

**London Metro** – covers all TfL rail modes: DLR, Elizabeth line, London Trams, Overground, Underground. Meets alternate months on third Thursdays in-person at 19.00 – next due on **18 July**, then 19 September. Division Chair: [richard.bowry@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:richard.bowry@railfuture.org.uk) See [London Metro Division](#).

**Surrey** – Division Convener: [stephen.rolph@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:stephen.rolph@railfuture.org.uk). See [Surrey Division](#).

**Sussex & Coastway** – meets about monthly on Thursdays, at 18.00. Next, in-person, on **18 July** in Haywards Heath, then 5 September **online**. Division Convener is John Black: [jcbblack@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jcbblack@yahoo.co.uk), Division Secretary: [robertcheesman@btinternet.com](mailto:robertcheesman@btinternet.com) See [Sussex & Coastway Division](#).

## Your branch committee's meetings

Officers and other committee members continue to meet, **online**, every 4 weeks on Wednesday evenings.

## **railse online**

Available in the 'Branch news' area of our branch's main web page: <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/London-and-South-East-branch-news>. Any links in blue are clickable hyperlinks.

This branch newsletter is free, published quarterly and usually distributed with each edition of the national **railwatch**. The copy deadline for **railse** issue no.165, due to be published in September 2024, will be Friday 23 August 2024. Items for this newsletter and our branch Local Action column in **railwatch** to [londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk)



**Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for Britain's railway and rail users**

Websites: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) [London and South East regional branch](#)  
[Railwatch](#) [Rail Action](#) [Rail User Express](#)

Follow us on  **twitter** @Railfuture and @RailfutureLSE and @Railwatch

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## Railfuture campaigns (noun, and verb!)

Our five national **railfuture** policy priorities:

- # **Attracting passengers back to rail** – improving the travelling environment
- # **Climate change and modal shift** – how the railway can help reduce the carbon footprint of transport
- # **Restoring Your Railway** – restoring communities' rail connections by reopening lines and stations
- # **Fares and ticketing** – making the system easier and fairer
- # **Industry structure and Great British Railways** – taking the opportunity to move to devolution and concessions.

## Railfuture 'news and views', and Railfuture 'in the news'

- ~ Stay abreast of Railfuture's and others' reports and thoughts published in our website [articles](#).
- ~ Stay abreast of Railfuture members making, not just watching, things happen in our website [media extracts](#).
- ~ Railfuture is also on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## Neighbouring and other branches

All 14 branch websites, including their **events** and **newsletters**, are **online** in '[Railfuture near you](#)'.

## London and SE Branch officers

**Branch Chairman, and Secretary:** both vacant.

**Vice-Chairman:** Roger Blake, 70 Dynevor Road, Stoke Newington, London, N16 0DX.  
[roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** vacant

**Membership Secretary:** Neil Middleton.  
[neil.middleton@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:neil.middleton@railfuture.org.uk)

## **inter-railse**

Our two-page monthly e-newsletter, by email (as a [pdf or link](#)) is sent to all branch members on email.