



West Midlands Branch eNews

Issue 4 - September 2014

Readers who received eNews by e-mail also received the following attachments

- West Midland Branch Meeting Minutes – July 2014 (no meeting in August)
- Lichfield Rail Promotion Group Newsletter - Sept 2014
- Yorkshire Rail Campaigner - Sept_2014
- Watford Area Stakeholder update - 29.08.14
- Rail Action 6 – August 2014
- Severn Dee News August 2014

News from Worcestershire

Further to notes above on the County Council's "Worcestershire Parkway Regional Interchange" we have received updates (attached) from the Worcestershire County Council which shows currently that it is only phase One they have in hand.

The principal benefit of connectivity for the area will be when phase Two on the Birmingham – Cheltenham line is open however the Cotswold & Malvern Line Promotion Group idea of reverting to the former route of Cross Country Birmingham -Cheltenham franchise by returning to run through Shrub Hill Station and the new Bromsgrove Station would be welcomed by the City's populace.

However the increased car parking at the Parkway will be a boon to the rural villages especially as Pershore station parking is very limited and despite significant efforts by all parties FGW, County Council and Town Council no progress has been made on acquiring land to increase the size of the car park.

Colin Major

News from Shrewsbury - Chester Rail Users Association

The association are holding a public meeting on TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER featuring guest speaker Professor Paul Salveson MBE. Details of the meeting and the theme of the presentation have now been finalised and this email updates the previous communication.

The meeting will be held at the Church Hall of All Saints' Church, Chirk Road, Gobowen, Shropshire SY11 3LL. Access is from the rear off Old Chirk Road. It's 5-10 minutes' walk from Gobowen Station, depending on the fitness of the walker. The start time is 1930 which allows time to connect with trains arriving at Gobowen from Chester and Shrewsbury directions.

Paul Salveson will be familiar to rail user groups and members as the founder of the concept of 'Community Rail' in the 1990's. He has had a long career in the railway industry including management posts at Northern Rail and is currently a board member of Passenger Focus as well as being a prominent and well known rail commentator, whose articles have appeared in various rail publications including 'Rail' and 'Today's Railways' Paul has also written and published a number of books including, most recently 'Railpolitik' which looks at Community Rail and examines alternatives to the current rail franchising system.

Paul's presentation to our meeting is titled '**A Peoples Railway for Wales & the Borders**'. This will look at his 2013 publication '*Rail Cymru - A Peoples Railway for Wales*' which examines the case for a publically run 'not for dividend' rail franchise for Wales & the Borders.

This is timely in the lead-up to the re-franchising in 2018 and the talk will examine how Rail User Groups can engage with this process and help to influence and shape decision making in that period.

This is a public meeting however it will be of particular interest to rail user groups in Wales and the Borders and all groups are warmly invited to attend. Please put this date in your diaries.

Paul Lindsay Communications Officer Shrewsbury - Chester Rail Users Association

Passenger Focus newsletter "Passenger Voice"- August 2014

See: <http://email.passengerfocus.org.uk/passengerfocuslz/lz.aspx?p1=051235S058209&p=0>.

Passenger Focus' new research examining the relationship passengers have with their train companies found that To improve passenger trust in the rail industry, train companies not only need to get the basic service right day-to-day, they need to put effort into building long-term relationships with their passengers.

See: <http://email.passengerfocus.org.uk/passengerfocuslz/lz.aspx?p1=051235S058209&p=1&cID=0&cValue=1>.

A more punctual bus service is the number one priority for improvement for bus passengers. Passenger Focus has been leading work to understand more about when, where and why buses are delayed and what can be done to help them run on time.

See: <http://email.passengerfocus.org.uk/passengerfocuslz/lz.aspx?p1=051235S058209&p=2&cID=0&cValue=1>.

In recent years, local authorities have taken tough decisions on reducing spending on buses. Many local authorities decided to invest some of the money they saved on **demand-responsive transport** (DRT). We're trying to find out how successful these schemes have been.

See: <http://email.passengerfocus.org.uk/passengerfocuslz/lz.aspx?p1=051235S058209&p=3&cID=0&cValue=1>.

Passenger Focus Bus Passenger Survey 2014:

<http://email.passengerfocus.org.uk/passengerfocuslz/lz.aspx?p1=051235S058209&p>

Regulated train fares in England set to rise by an average of 2.5 per cent (assuming Chancellor again agrees to RPI increase, rather than the RPI+1% of previous years):

<http://email.passengerfocus.org.uk/passengerfocuslz/lz.aspx?p1=051235S058209&p=5&cID=0&cValue=1>

Passenger Focus produced a case study on the difficulties caused by over-running engineering works:

<http://email.passengerfocus.org.uk/passengerfocuslz/lz.aspx?p1=051235S058209&p=6&cID=0&cValue=1>

The next Railfuture West Midlands eNews will be issue 5 in October 2014.

Other issues of *Railfuture* West Midlands eNews are available at
www.railfuture.org.uk/branches/?branch=West+Midlands

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