



# East Anglia Branch Annual General Meeting 22 February 2025

**Friends' Meeting House,  
St. John's Street  
Bury St. Edmunds**



# Agenda – Part 1

1. Chair to welcome
2. Guest speaker – Mark Walker, CEO Cogitamus



***Cōgitāmus [verb]  
[Latin. first person plural. present  
tense: We Think. We Plan]  
Thoughtful Public Affairs***

You may know Mark Walker from the ‘Calling all stations – The Transport Podcast’, which features Railfuture’s Honorary President, Christian Wolmar. Mark describes himself as ‘the other one’.

See <https://markwalkerg.podbean.com/>

# Coffee/Tea Interval



Railfuture offered these Rail 200 badges for sale (at £4) during the interval.

We may have more on sale at our event in Peterborough on 15 May 2025 (scroll down for info).

# Agenda – Part 2 – East Anglia Branch AGM

3. Apologies for Absence
4. Minutes of 2024 AGM (and any matters arising not covered elsewhere)
5. Branch Annual Report from the Chair, Ian Couzens
6. Railfuture National Update, Jerry Alderson, Director
7. Election of Branch officers and Committee
8. Other items of Business notified to the Secretary
9. Setting date and venue of 2026 branch AGM

## 4. Minutes of AGM 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Friends Meeting House, Bury St. Edmunds

### Chairman's welcome

Nick Dibben welcomed the assembled members and guests

**Guest Speaker's Presentation:** Alan Neville from Greater Anglia talked about his career in the rail industry through to his current role with Greater Anglia and answered questions.

### Apologies for absence

Lloyd Butler, Mark Collins, Robin Edwards

A minute of silent reflection was given for John Drake

**Minutes of the 2023 AGM** accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Proposed: Ben Walsh Seconded: Martin Cooper

### Branch Report

Nick Dibben gave an update about the rail industry in general alongside local issues, covering:

National issues - Euston and HS2, Ticket offices.

RfEA - "A New Geography for East Anglia" sent to councillors.

Future campaigning includes Haverhill reopening and station improvements at Peterborough.

We need to maintain our relationship with organisations such as train operating companies.

### National Report

Jerry Alderson presented the national update covering: 2024 AGM in Edinburgh, Directors meeting with Shadow Rail Minister, Membership of the National Board and GDPR rules.

### Election of Branch Officers and Committee

Nick Dibben was retiring as Chairman and from the committee and was presented with a gift

Ian Couzens was unanimously elected as the new Chairman.

Proposed: Nick Dibben

The full set of committee members after the election was:

Chair: Ian Couzens

Vice Chairs: Christopher Burton and Peter Wakefield

Secretary: Paul Hollinghurst

Membership Secretary: Peter Bayless

Members: Peter Feeney, Jerry Alderson, Ben Walsh, Phil Smart, Ian Couzens, Martin Cooper, Robert Sanderson, Peter Chivall.

**Ian Couzens** gave an introduction as the new Chair, mentioning the 7 years involved with Railfuture, Campaigning focussed on Norwich. Building on the "New Geography for East Anglia report" needs everyone's involvement. EWRL is coming to a prominent point with Bedford to Cambridge coming to an enquiry.

### Other Items

**Paul Hollinghurst** gave an update for Haverhill, with the recent publication of the JRC report "A big role for a Haverhill Railway".

**Peter Wakefield:** update about EWRL and Cambridge Area Developments

### Date of the next Meeting and Annual General Meeting:

Saturday 22 June 2024. AGM: Friends Meeting House, Bury St Edmunds at 14.00 Saturday 22 February 2025.

# Railfuture National Update

## 6. Railfuture National Update

### a. Elections to the Board of directors

Three nominations received for the three vacancies, therefore no ballot in 2025. Still one vacancy – will be filled by co-option.

### b. Regional Mini Conference Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 12.00-16.30

Peterborough Museum (details in Rail East 205 on page 4)

Limited space – need to book [www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences/](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences/).

### c. Railfuture National AGM 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Great North Museum, Hancock, Barras Bridge,

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 4PT.

Nearest station ‘Haymarket’ (Tyne & Wear Metro)

Opportunity to travel on Northumberland Line after AGM ends (15.30)

# 7. Railfuture East Anglia Committee 2025/26

<b>Position</b>	<b><i>Proposed and elected</i></b>		
Chair	Ian Couzens	Committee	Peter Feeney
Vice Chairs	Chris Burton	“	Sarah Grove
	Peter Wakefield	“	Will Nichols
Secretary	Paul Hollinghurst	“	Rob Sanderson
Committee	Jerry Alderson	“	Phil Smart
“	Peter Bayless	“	Ben Walsh
“	Peter Chivall		<i>Martin Cooper had stood down</i>

# Items of Business notified to Secretary

## 8. Railfuture campaigns and news updates

### a. East West Rail (EWR)

- No opening date for Bicester-Bletchley but fare-paying charter has run
- Feedback from Dec 2024-Jan 2025 consultancy very positive
- Railfuture had contacted members and supporters to take part
- Statutory consultation will take place in 2025

### b. Cambridge Area developments

- Cambridge South station to open in January 2026
- C3R resignalling project is taking place

### c. Mid-Anglia Rail Community Rail Partnership (CRP)

- The CRP is now active – it fills a gap in the East Anglian CRP network



# Railfuture Public Meetings

- ❑ **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (12.00) – Mini Conference**  
Peterborough Museum, **PETERBOROUGH**
    - Free, but must book in advance - [www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences/](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences/)
  - ❑ **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025 (14.00)** St Mary at Stoke Hall, Stoke Street, **IPSWICH** IP2 8BX
  - ❑ **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (14.00)** Friends Meeting House, 5 Upper Goat Lane, **NORWICH** NR2 1EW
  - ❑ **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (14.00)** Signalbox Community Centre, Glenalmond Ave **CAMBRIDGE** CB2 8DB
  - ❑ **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (14.00)** Friends Meeting House, St John's Street **BURY ST EDMUNDS** IP33 1SJ
- 
- ❑ National AGM — 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025, **NEWCASTLE** (see 'conferences' page)

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- Campaigning for a bigger, better railway
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  - Pay using credit/debit card or PayPal account using the PayPal website
  - You will receive quarterly national Railwatch magazine and branch newsletter
- Follow Railfuture on social media (@Railfuture)
- East Anglia X/Twitter: [@RailfutureEA](https://twitter.com/RailfutureEA)