

SPALDING & PETERBOROUGH TRANSPORT FORUM

AGM

20th April 2006

Present: George Scott, Chairman; Kathy Lewis, Secretary

Nilla Short, Treasurer; Rob Short, Eunice Pollard, Liz Williams

Louise McGuinness, Committee

Richard Pill, Chairman BRTA;

Kevin Powell Operations Manager GNER; Graham North GNER;

Chris Freeman. Carl Wilkinson Travel Centre Peterborough

Steve & Delia Williams SHDC

Tony Cross, L.C.C. Head of Transport Services William Webb LCC Executive

Members of Deeping St Nicholas Parish Council

Apologies: John Hayes MP for Spalding

Nigel Carlisle, Central Trains; Bruce Wakeling, Spalding Town Manager

Alan Meredith, EMPTRUF; Roger Bacon, Paul Fullwood Passenger Focus;

1. **Introductions**

First of all thank you all for coming tonight it's good to see so many at our 4th AGM if you include the first one...

You should all have copies of last AGM and last meeting in January. They are all on the website so you can pick them up from there.

2. **Minutes of the 2005 AGM Meeting**

Central trains franchise was extended to 2007.

8.05 have been very successful and the 9 and 10 o'clock trains are full.

The café has fallen through. GS read email from Nigel Carlisle.

Quotes are being collected for repainting station.

Minutes were agreed Louise McGuinness proposed and Steve Williams seconded.

Proposal carried unanimously.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

Steve & Delia left off list of attendees at last meeting. Secretary apologised.

We will continue with things we started at beginning of last year. We would have liked the station painted before Flower Parade but this won't take place just yet.

We are still looking at the station bridge and would still like access to Park Road.

We know there is a lot of vandalism on the Park Road side but it could look quite good if developed.

The footbridge is once again moving towards Peterborough again and you can see the gaps. We have been talking with Network Rail & SHDC re bridge in Spalding Station.

Perhaps you saw the article in the Free Press re trolleys on the track these were thrown from the bridge. The Forum does not condone this behaviour and is will to go around the local schools to educate pupils of the dangers.

The Station will be open longer for Tulip Parade day until 5pm.

There was a public meeting at Deeping St Nicholas regarding a trial bus in the Littleworth area but this has not yet been confirmed as to whether it will be to Deeping or Peterborough...

Station Car Parking - Looks like a drop in use since charges came in.

There are two bridges the station bridge and the one to the North of the station. There were considerable amount of people on the bridge when the Union of South Africa steam train came through despite a restriction of numbers in place. It would be nice to see specials coming through again.

The committee will be going to Apsley Guise on Saturday to once again meet Richard Pill. In May two of the Committee will be going to Nottingham for a meeting. We are determined to link up with other groups for mutual information.

Projects

One of the projects I would like to do is to do something for the disabled and people carrying baggage. The station does not have very easy access to the other side. We would also like an improvement to CCTV and various other bits and pieces. We want to be proud of our railway station so we can get a favourable response from the community and visiting people.

GNER have done improvements to the station. There are no speakers in the buffet but if there are a lot of people talking people miss hearing the announcement.

Questions & Comments:

How is the ticket service doing in the Ticket Area at Peterborough?

We've revised the queuing system. It now flows and we can move it around. Immediate tickets are all windows but after 7.30 we have 2 windows for advance. No smoking policy in the ticket hall

There is an ongoing recruitment policy for Transport Police to try to curb vandalism on the railways.

Q. What about partially sighted people?

A. We have put in ticket machines with special people who go around helping people who may need assistance.

There is a partially sighted lady who will be advising on areas we need to improve.

Screens at Peterborough will be changed to show where the trains are.

There is a possibility to put a screen in the shopping centre which may help.

We asked for zebra crossings to be put in and they are fading. The road will be resurfaced and the road markings will be changed.

I've been passed pass on comments about staff at Peterborough being very pleasant helpful.

Q. We've asked about a crossing outside Spalding station what is happening?

People have difficulty crossing the road. We suggested signs at either end. We were told that because of the traffic lights it could not be done.

TC Last year I said that a crossing could be put in but a crossing island in this year.

EP Now that the station has car park charges people are finding other places to park.

I did complain about the state of the bridge and it has been cleared up.

LM Can I ask TC about the bus why is it only going to Market Deeping.

TC We cannot subsidise a service in competition with a commercial service. We have quotes for one journey and it would cost 30,000. For one journey. The feed back I have had from the meeting is that there were few people who wanted it.

GS I was there a bus service was fine but they wanted a train. It was supposed to be for the bus service. We wanted also to gauge how many people wanted the train as well. One of the things that came out of the meeting was that if youngsters wanted to go out and they have to use a car as there is no transport. The bus would not have got into the bus station in time for people to run across and get the train. The early bus from Market Deeping is full going to Peterborough. None of the bus companies came to the meeting so we could not ask. Only 10 people put their hands up. We will now do a survey house to house and want people to sign the petition for a service. Unless you have the support you must fight for it. The station is a long term. There are so many people to contact and we have to provide hard facts.

TC A survey needs to ask the right questions. If we put our services where people wanted we would be out of pocket.

GS We need people in Deeping to support us and they need to help us get the survey done.

The question to ask is also how much they are prepared to pay.

NS I think it is also on the quality of the service i.e. if GNER was providing the service it would be full to bursting and would be better.

We are not looking at this year but 20 years down the line. The Peterborough regeneration is going to have an impact on all the surrounding areas.

I live at the far end of Deeping St Nicholas as it is a long village. We didn't get details of the meeting.

I did not go to the meeting and I support the station being reopened, a lot of people may not know where the village starts.

Somewhere along the line something must be done.

All the councils have a powerful voice and we need to have support.

We heard that it would cost a lot to subsidise and it seems that if you're out in the sticks you stay there.

The Government want us to get out of our cars and use trains but how without the support. People have approached us and we will use the contacts we have.

LM. Can you please see that the bus gets into the bus station before 9am.

These are only proposals at the moment. What happens if the bus is late or the train? These are questions we are asking.

4. Election of Officers and Committee

GS introduced the present committee

NS proposed that GS should be Chairman, EP seconded

SW proposed that Kathy Lewis should remain Secretary

Nilla Short was re-elected Treasurer on a vote of hands.

Eunice Pollard, John Davies, Robert Bester, Tony Ivatt, Liz Williams, George Fitzgerald,

Liz Fermiger all elected to the committee.

Accounts

Nilla Short explained the accounts to the meeting.

We had a very successful Christmas. Central also gave money to fund for decorations

There were mince pies and a non-alcoholic punch served at the station and this was supplied free by the Forum.

This year we hope to be selling teas coffees etc for funds. We are looking at the possibility of adopting Spalding Station. We are looking at a list of jobs from Central.

We have been supported by the Delegate Fund and Community Champions and actively looking for other funding sources..

5. Richard Pill Chairman Bedfordshire Rail & Transport Assoc

GS gave the floor to Richard Pill after giving a short intro about their website.

Introduction

How BRTA got started.

BRTA started in 1997 there are 160 members who pay £10 per year from Preston to Dereham and focus on 5 counties Northampton - Bedford

We started off with a shopping list.

Then we sought to market it through letters media and leaflets stalls and our newsletter

We then sought studies and the issues opened up to us.

Our proposals include East west Rail stations North of Bedford Bedford-Northampton station on the Bletchley to Bedford rail link at Kempston

Major threats in the Bedford area:

Willington/ Bedford rowing lake

Sandy and encroaching development

Minerals and Quarrying

Public & Political moods

Richard showed the map of the track showing the lines in question

Various slides relating to their cause were shown.

It would appear that there is a movement of people out of the Southeast area and it looks that it is heading north. We need rail infrastructure to help redress the balance.

The Chairman thanked Richard for coming from Bedford and giving his talk.

Our area is expanding and after the Olympics we do not want to be left behind. We've got to look after ourselves. We don't want to be left as a sleepy backwater. We're not quite like Bedford.

6. AOB

We hope to be involved with LCC again in the right way and SHDC and Deeping St Nicholas Parish Council with regard to transport in the area.

Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.47pm

7. Date of next meeting **22nd June 2006 8pm**