

MINUTES OF THE SPALDING & PETERBOROUGH TRANSPORT FORUM MEETING
June 22nd 2006 in Council Offices Priory Road Spalding

Present: George Scott Chairman; Kathy Lewis Secretary; Nilla Short Treasurer,
Rob Short, Eunice Pollard, Robert Bester, Tony Ivatt Committee

Steve & Delia Williams SHDC Councillors
Simon Pashley GNER; Carl Wilkinson Travel Centre Peterborough

Apologies: John Hayes MP, Nigel Carlisle Central Trains,
Paul Fullwood, John Davies, Liz Williams and Louise McGuiness Committee

Chairman thanked everyone for coming.

Minutes of the AGM are to be agreed at next meeting as copies were not available.
We now have a Committee of 11 and there are a lot of items on the agenda.

Tonight's topic will be 'The Future'.

Website

2700 hits on the website and we have set up another website for Littleworth which
needs a lot more input.
www.littleworthstaion.co.uk

Trains

The Service is getting worse recently. There has been a lot of abuse given to the GNER
staff at Peterborough because of the problems. First Capital Connect service is fine.

Central are no longer able to provide taxis. Regional Manager doesn't have the power
to arrange. When GNER ring Birmingham they are told no taxis so get abuse from
passengers.

People had to wait for a train for over 3 hours to get back to Peterborough when some
trains are terminated at Spalding.

SW suggested going to the Ombudsman
GS said we will go to DfT.

Parking Charges at Peterborough

Chairman showed slide regarding the new parking charges to come in on 3rd July at Peterborough.

This hasn't gone down very well with passengers.

GS will be writing to Christopher Garnett to say that this was a bad move.

Even the members of staff at Peterborough weren't told until just before they had to put out the leaflets.

We were disappointed that we were not informed before the decision was made.

People in the area have no choice as they can't get to Peterborough before 7.30 by train so must use their cars to get to Peterborough and have to use the station car park. If a train left Spalding at 6.30 am they could make money from it in view of this charge.

Fares went up by 8.8% in January and people were asked to support the GNER franchise so this has come as bit of a shock so soon afterwards.

A good idea would be to ask the Minister why the prices have gone up so much.

Leaflet

We have produced a few copies of a leaflet/membership application form.

We have to finance the forum and if you give something away free nobody wants it but if you charge people they seem to think that it is good value for money.

Membership Fee of £5 per year was proposed and agreed so fees will be brought in from next year's AGM.

It was commented on that in the leaflet we should have our aims and objectives instead of current info. A redesigned leaflet in the future was on the cards as information goes out of date quickly.

Chairman showed slide show re:

Transport for the Future.

What would you want?

Better transport for all.

Central Trains Franchise ends late 2007.

The new franchise comes into affect in November 2007 and the DfT want our submissions in by 7th August this year.

Our wish list:

Early trains to Peterborough and Lincoln, later trains from Lincoln, later trains from Spalding to Peterborough and a Sunday service.

Young people can't have an evening out unless one doesn't drink.

With the population changing in the area we shouldn't forget that a lot of people here are in the older bracket. If you look on the top end it could be that we have up to 30,000 new people.

What do we want for the town? A train that has a schedule that meets your work pattern? A station that is clean & tidy? Easy access for the disabled and others? A bus that meets the train? Help on hand when you need it? Sunday trains to Peterborough.

What do you think of the bus service?

Replies were that the Inter-town bus good.

But a Member of Public remarked: No, it isn't - twice this week the bus has been cancelled. **Steve Williams** asked for details to take back to investigate.

We have had a leaflet from Central Trains to adopt a station but they have a lot of restrictions.

We would love to see the rooms at the station used. Is it part of the community? Years ago it was. It seems to have lost its sparkle. We need to bring back the Community Spirit to our station. Is it all money or what?

What the Forum has accomplished for you.

- Some early morning trains that connect with others.
- Train times – now in straight away.
- A pedestrian crossing outside the station.
- The traffic lights out of the market place on Winsover Road being looked at.
- The station is going to be painted by 2007 and the bridge will be sorted out.
- Zebra crossing outside the station at Peterborough.

SP They will be re-organising the front of the station and removing the zebra crossing near the postbox. Screens at the station will be modified. Signage to be looked at for improving...

CW As there are a lot of people using the fast ticket machines there will be a member of staff who will assist disabled people.

GNER were awarded a plaque by Disabled people who paid from their own money.

Simon was asked to pass a note of thanks to members of the ticket collecting staff from the Forum for their courtesy...

What we still have to do

- Try to get Littleworth station opened.
- Try to get Sunday trains.
- Try to get access to Park Road after the redundant part of the bridge has been demolished.
- Try to get a café opened.
- Work with the County Council and others to improve transportation in the area.

We're here to help and we need members. We need your support and all the things we have done so far are through members of the Public highlighting their concerns.

There appears to be a gap in the service on a Saturday from 12.58 until 15.09 why?

KL The trains are taken for use on the Skegness line.

GS We were interested in taking up something with the Town Centre Partnership to find out what they want from transport. We are approaching it but it all depends on what finance is given by Dft. We will be putting together ideas for the Dft.

The Forum needs a voice and we need people to talk to us as well so we know what is going on. You have to tell us what you want and we will try to fight for it.

We're up for the Franchise. The choice is either, using the train for £6 per day or paying £10 a day to park in Peterborough.

NS: We are trying to get all the voices we have representatives from the SHDC and we would like to help.

The Chairman gave the date of the next meeting as **21st September** and closed the meeting at 9.45pm.