

**MINUTES OF SPALDING AND PETERBOROUGH TRANSPORT FORUM
PUBLIC MEETING THURSDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2007**

APOLOGIES: Lynn Capes, Liz Willis, Louise McGuinness, Paul Forward

MATTERS ARISING: Hope of Arriva London Train is still alive. Meeting re station was on 30th Nov. South Holland Radio progressing its occupancy at the station - this is good news. Membership applications at station had little take up. Mince pies at station was successful last year.

TREASURERS REPORT : £313 at Bank - more money and more members required

PRESENTATION TO HONORARY PRESIDENT: John Hayes accepted a presentation from Chairman George Scott recognising his support for the forum.

PARK ROAD & FOOTBRIDGE UPDATES:

- Footbridges not in very good state - awaiting engineering report - station is in conservation area with a lot of red tape re replacement and mending.
 - Park Road entrance - far side of platform 2 could be developed as a community project - the opening of an access has potential for valuation increase for immediate residents. In past area subject to abuse and vandalism and this could be greatly improved.
- John Hayes supports a Park Road access and the improvement of this eyesore. He also pointed out that with a new operator we must be ambitious and open about what is needed.

LITTLEWORTH UPDATE:

- there has been an onsite meeting with all interested bodies - the owners of the site are very positive, prepared to give access to 80 bayed car parking places with security barrier. 2012 will hopefully mark a Cleethorpes to Stratford route for the Olympics by Renaissance trains. Also the catchment area for this station is very large not just Deeping St Nicholas, but also parts of Spalding, Holland Park., even potentially Moulton and Cowbit people have showed an interest. A feasibility study is required. Nigel Carlisle of Central Trains pointed out that the best format for the station in terms of cost would be two platforms with shelters and ticket purchase on the train. Fast tickets and smart card technology are on the way. Footpath access from the estate is good. We have applied for support from the Wind Turbine Committee with £1100 spent so far on Littleworth project. Mr Cakebread suggested that one platform with a crossover should be considered as an option. Peterborough is to see massive redevelopment making the need for this more urgent and necessary.

FUTURE MEETINGS THE GROUP ARE GOING TO ATTEND:

- Leicester meeting - to be attended by Minister of Transport - travelwatch
- Ely meeting - rail future

- Spalding Station and Littleworth

CORRESPONDANCE:

Spalding Model Rail club had written to us highlighting their occupancy of station. They have been invited to join us, but so far have not responded.

BUS STATION AND ISSUES:

Dial - a - ride is being withdrawn. It is clear it is used haphazardly, but the management of this service and particularly booking arrangements have been particularly poor. Usually only one or two on bus at a time and sometimes not able to book even two days in advance. The station is very poor for information about bus services.

More information boards re transport services required throughout the town.

The Plus Bus service was announced where you can buy combined rail and bus tickets, but no provision of this service at the Spalding end yet, although Cavalier are participants in the scheme.

AOB: - World Tulip summit to be in Spalding for six weeks next year. The yard opposite the petrol station is up for sale - sadly with likely development being residential following a national trend.

Mr Cakebread brought up the issue of reducing bus services with the commerciality of routes being frequently cited as the reason for reducing services, in his case Surfleet Seas End down to two services a week.

Local authorities, particularly SHDC have little interest in public transport development and expansion.

Market Rasen station to have an open day 10-6 on 6th October 2007 - there will be a raffle for a 7 day rover ticket on Central Trains.

Diego introduced as new member who is going to redesign the website.

John Hayes said that the front of the station with its flower display had looked very good, but that this should be spread to other parts of the station. He believes that anything that improves the overall ambience of the travelling experience is good and encourages people to use the station and public transport. If the forum drafts a letter he is prepared to put his name to it to get firms to donate tubs and plants to decorate the station area. This is supported in principle by Nigel Carlisle of Central Trains.