

Local Transport Rep's Report to Planning & Transport Committee – 20th December 2017.

1. Trains.

The Winter Timetable for services across the UK came into effect on 10th December. A handful of changes to services to/from London will take place, most significant being that on weekdays the 08.48 Ipswich to Colchester starts at 08.58 and extended to Liverpool Street, whilst on Saturday mornings, the 08.00, 09.00 and 10.00 Norwich to Liverpool Street also lose their calls at Colchester and Chelmsford to alleviate crowding.

The last meeting of the Community Rail Partnership was on 12th December, a copy of the initial draft minutes are attached, these contain one or two minor inaccuracies, but are, in essence, correct.

2. Buses.

First Buses have said they will review the effect of the temporary services during the November closure of Woods Lane (which included a Suffolk County Council funded Shuttle Bus linking Rendlesham, Eyke and the Pytches Road / Bredfield Road area with Woodbridge whilst service 800 terminated at Woodbridge and services 63/64/65 ran direct via Melton Road & Melton Hill) in the light of experience in time for the January to April closure. I have yet to hear what their plans are, or indeed whether SCC will be making any different arrangements for the January - April diversions.

However, I have this weekend become aware from the Suffolk County Council website of proposed 'routine' changes to services 65 and 800 with effect from Sunday 7th January 2018. As the detail timetables show Woods Lane being used, it is clear that these changes have nothing whatever to do with the road closure which starts on Monday 8th January. For the 800, the website refers to "*revised route in Melton and Rendlesham - minor changes to the timetable.*" What this means in fact is that service 800 will bypass the Station Road and Melton Chapel stops, travelling via Wilford Bridge Road and using an as yet non-existent bus stops "opposite/adjacent Church View Close". The objective seems to be to save 1 or 2 minutes on the running time between Rendlesham and Martlesham Park-&-Ride, but the residual hourly frequency of buses from/to the village centre would be the worst for several decades at least. **I recommend that the parish council writes to First Norfolk & Suffolk protesting in the strongest terms at this reduction in service.**

All this activity has, yet again, delayed the long-promised launch of the Winter Edition of *Guide to Local Public Transport*, although the brief *Summary of Buses from Melton to Woodbridge* will be published once details of the second phase Woods Lane diversions are known.

3. Highways.

The impact of the 'Phase 2' closure of Woods Lane from 8th January to 13th April is referred to above.

On 3rd November, in a personal capacity, I lodged a Freedom of Information Act request with Suffolk County Council, asking five questions relating to the 'Phase 1' diversions. On 6th December I received the following response (their answers in purple):-

FOI Request - Closure of A1152 Woods Lane, Melton Nov 2017 to Apr 2018. Could you please provide me with the following information:-

a) the date on which the application for the A1152 Woods Lane, Melton road closure was received; 14/08/17.

b) the date on which the developers' proposed diversionary route was received; 14/08/17.

c) the date on which the developers' proposed diversionary route was approved; 02/10/17.

d) details of any assessment of the risks to residents of, and pedestrians & cyclists using The Street (B1438); As per Safety at Street Works Code of Practice. Minimum passing width could not be maintained on the carriageway. Pedestrians and cyclists have dedicated safe thoroughfare. Residents have safe access to properties within the closure.

e) background papers relating to any other discussion of the diversionary route in the time between b) & c). There are no background papers of discussions. Road closure applications arrive with a proposed diversion route which was verbally discussed and approved. There was a discussion at an open evening held by Bloor and as a result of feedback from HGV drivers the diversion route was amended to include Station Road, Melton.

I understand Suffolk County Council Highways has responded to the request for specific traffic count data, and that the Clerk is in discussion about procuring this. I believe such information would be very useful to the parish council in formulating responses to future planning applications and in the impending Yarmouth Road appeal.

Geof Butterwick

Local Transport Representative

18th December 2017



Draft minutes of the Line Group South meeting, Tue 12 Dec 2017 11:15 at Wickham Market Station

Attended

Aaron Taffera (AT)	LGS Chairman / Adopter Melton Station
Bob Webb (BW)	LGS Vice Chairman / Adopter Wickham Market Station / Station House Community Connections
Peter Cogar (PC)	ESTA
Bill Howard (BH)	Leiston TC
Roy Dowding (RD)	Middleton PC
John Fisher (JF)	Saxmundham TC and SCDC
Rosamund Webb (RW)	Station House Community Connections / Adopter Wickham Market Station
Geof Butterwick (GB)	Melton PC
Martin Halliday (MH)	ESLCRP Officer

Apologies

Steve Mitchell (SM)	Adopter Wickham Market Station
Chris Wheeler (CW)	Friston
Clare Palmier (CP)	The Art Station Saxmundham

Minutes - Minutes from the 12/09/17 meeting were accepted as presented.

Finance Report – AT circulated the finance report. Expenditure since the 12/09 meeting was £25.00 for room hire for today.

New Member – AT said Lynn Butler of Coastal Accessible Transport Services (CATS) had applied to become a member and was awaiting her response to the CRPs aims and objectives. Those in attendance agreed to approve her membership if the A&Os were accepted. RD said CATS does a lot of good things, would be a good coordinator, and recommended membership.

Community Rail Consultation – AT said the DfT is holding a consultation on Community Rail and wanted as many responses as possible. AT said the rail minister Paul Maynard has promised to read every one. BW said the questions drive you to answer the way they want them answered. BW said the ESL is a subsidised service and affects Community Rail's ability to influence ticket prices; he said there isn't a voice in the ESLCRP to express that. MH said GA have parked the idea of a rover ticket based on the length of the line and the end to end price. BW said there are £9 tickets to London but £18 is the price for a single on the ESL Ipswich to Lowestoft. He said the TOC could fill the space with

limited availability tickets. MH said there was a possibility of a £10 off-peak rover for a specific event but only in advance through an online offer. BW said there's no place to show where Community Rail is heading and didn't get a sense of visionary questions. He said the term 'Community Rail' is too wide ranging. BW said political involvement is close to zero. He said the East Suffolk Partnership's conference doesn't list rail as strategic partner. BW said it's about principals; the line needs to be marketed. MH said he is to meet with GA's marketing team to ask about the marketing plan. PC said he would like to see the text in the next franchise agreement that limit changes in fares. JF said ticketing anomalies mean different prices for the same trip in different directions. RW said she was interested in how other CRPs work as they seem to work differently. AT said it is better for CRPs to decide how they operate at their local level than have a rigid template and didn't know if some CRPs operate without TOC membership. MH said some TOCs employ more officers, have more resource, and employ them directly. AT said the CRP was planning a response and said individual responses were encouraged.

GA Update – AT reported the final Stadler design has been agreed, design for Aventra near completion. The body shell production is scheduled for April. GA is finalising its program of platform extension in readiness for new fleet. Rural routes performance improved 4% this year. £500k Class 156 wheel sleep protection program has result in no wheel damage. £3.8 million refurb program of the class 321s is complete. WiFi will be installed on 317s, 321s, 360s from 2018. GA reported the InterCity rolling stock is now the most reliable in the UK fleet. Mobile tickets can now be used for Advanced, Peak, Off Peak, Super Advance, Anytime tickets. 26-30 railcar being trialled, Club 50 offers 20% for 50 an overs if bought online, 10% at the station. TVM performance has greatly improved; cheapest ticket is now highlight by default. The new TVMs speak: you can press a button and are connected to someone at Colchester who can offer advice or take control of the TVM and produce the ticket for you. Paul Wilkinson, the new Integrated Transport manager is now in post. Draft timetable is expected late spring.

AT reported the latest ORR figures for LGS stations 2015-16 to 2016-17

Darsham 56,262 TO 55,880 -0.7
Saxmundham 147,346 TO 152,074 +3.2
Wickham Market 44,332 TO 46,392 +4.6
Melton 63,510 TO 68,340 +7.6
Woodbridge 202,554 TO 204,654 +1.0

PC said rail travel in East Anglia is up 4% vs 1% nationally. AT said lines with CRPs see bigger increases versus comparable lines which don't. BH said there needed to be more promotion of the line to new people moving into the new housing being built. RW said a season ticket is £40 more expensive annually from Wickham Market to London vs Melton to London. AT said all stations couldn't have the same price to London and it worked out to 11 pence extra return per trip. RD said sometimes people use a specific rail station based on ability to park.

Station Updates (other than Action Plan items)

Saxmundham - AT read a letter from Clare Palmier with an update on The Art Station (TAS) at Saxmundham which stated that stripping out is the begin in the Spring; that the number of volunteers and members have increased, and the exhibitions and art education programmes have been going well; CP wrote that a full programme of activity is in place for next year in the waiting room and later in the year in the main building. CP also wrote

that a festive collaboration with Saxmundham Museum is now on site at the station using the waiting room, boarded windows/doors. CP stated that fundraising continues and there are a number of new trustees who are to focus solely on fundraising. CP wrote that the Food Wagon is delayed until March as Fire Station are having one made rather than borrowing one. RW asked if TAS was still a non-profit social enterprise as the Fire Station looks to be involved.

Wickham Market - RW said new GER replica benches gifted by the Railway Heritage Trust (RHT) were installed by GA at Wickham Market Station. RW said SHCC received a national award from the Railway Heritage Trust for the canopy reinstatement. RW said there was an opportunity to put in a sheltered bike rack. AT said he asked ACoRP if they could provide some match funding. BW said GA have made a promise to put back the bike racks which were removed to make room for the lamp room; BW said GA has surveyed the station to put in the TVM.

Melton - AT said the TVM at Melton is to go between the railings and buffer stop. AT suggested Paul Haynes could be a contact for information from the GA Asset Team as to when things happen. AT to invite Paul Haynes to the next LGS meeting March of next year. AT reported new benches had been installed at Melton and Woodbridge.

Adopter Activities - It was noted that Wickham Market station and its adopters were the recipients of an award for Best Community Project at GA's Adopter Awards in October. Trimley, Lowestoft and Beccles also received awards.

Marketing / Promotions / Officer Update – MH said GA direct mailed 400,000 of the ESL leaflets. MH attended the ACoRP awards with AT and RW. MH/AT attended a GA marketing seminar. MH said each ESL station is to have two CRP poster boards per platform: one with a map, one with CRP events, part funded by ACoRP and GA. MH said GA have done a virtual presentation on the new trains; MH has suggested the same be done at some ESL stations: Lowestoft, Beccles, and Wickham Market.

ESL Walks and Booklet – AT said they were aiming to publish the new booklet sometime in March; AT said the Fynn Valley walk was now waymarked, and along with the Deben Valley, and Saxmundham to Benhall Green routes, they've been waymarked with signs where routes converge. AT said the next Guided walk is 30 December from Woodbridge to Melton to Wickham Market with a stop at the pub in Ufford.

Action Plan Update – The Action Plan was updated to reflect changes between the 12/09 meeting and today.

GA Stations Consultation	AT reiterated that no additional responses received other than CW. No change from prior meeting.
Darsham Station Damp	James Reeve has assigned to the Asset Management Team (update from 12 September). AT said there was no further update to report.
Darsham Station Car Park	To be discussed at Cabinet Briefing 12/12 and then decided on 2nd January. The question is whether the two car parks are added to the order. SCC have raised a fresh order with Suffolk Highways for them to double-check the plans and produce a revised cost

**Saxmundham
Station Signage
And Platform**

AT said the Lowestoft-bound platform work has not begun, picket fence repaired. Car park wall repairs underway; to be complete by Christmas. Car park plan had been delayed due to restructuring at Suffolk Highways; project has been added back in. AT said a full topographic survey of the site has been ordered; expected by 25/12 which will enable the design team to determine the best way to make maximum use of the area.

**Wickham Market
Platform, Car Park**

SM reported via email that he and BW had drawn up plans for the tree removal and picket fencing; they are going to cost a large shredder; hope to make a start in the new year from the bridge end. SM proposed hanging baskets under canopy and small planters by front wall ramp / steps. AT reported SCDC had undertaken a car park consultation with a 18 hour limit proposed. AT suggested a 36 hour limit in his response. RW said 1/3 of car park is used by non-rail users; RW said SHCC users use the Village Hall Car park and church car park per an agreement between the two entities. BW said there was car pooling and parking by non-rail users. GB said it can't be policed. MH asked if pay and display would work? BW said no and the only strategic opportunity was to possibly approach Clark & Simpson about their land to be used as a car park. GB suggested that SCDC be approached on the outcome saying two different entities owned the car park, and that the 18 hour limit would deter the law abiding. RW said the car parks are not inspected. PC asked what the plan is for the for the next 12 months. BW asked if SCDC can police the GA section of the car park. GB suggested sending a letter of objection to SCDC saying once it is in the order it is difficult to remove (the 18 hour limit). PC said a poster and windscreen campaign could be used as 'gentle reminder.' AT said rail passengers would not be offended by the poster. MH said during the closure when staff were at each station it was apparent that most users were not rail passengers. BW said SHCC is going to reply. AT said he was told neither GA nor SCC had responded. MH suggested it be on the CRP Board Meeting agenda for 19/12.

**Melton Station
Improvement
Scheme**

AT reported he had cleared the area; planting was re-scheduled for 21/12 due to bad weather on 07/12. Volunteers needed. GB said he would try to help. AT reported the butcher would provide water. AT made a site visit with SCDC and later Dura-Composites for the footpath. Quote was £13,825 (materials) for a GRP decked solution to include the present drain. The SCC price for a wooden deck was £80 per metre installed. SCC provided AT a report on underground services; AT had contacted Openreach for clarification. GB said the Melton neighbourhood plan had passed with 94% approval. A roundabout was being proposed at Station Road, the entrance to Riduna park and the A1152. GB suggested the Melton footpath platform connection be put on hold until it is decided where the pelican crossing is sighted; the proposed new road layout at the level crossing has its own pedestrian crossing further east; a planning application is expected which will see the A1152 pushed west and allow at least 15 more spaces in the station car park. GB emailed a map to LGS members.

**Melton Septic
Issues**

AT said an update from NR was expected in December.

**Timetabling And
Sizewell 'A' Paths**

BH said a meeting of stakeholders is Thursday 14/12 where the removal of the paths will be discussed with industry and the council. PC reported that Bill Hamilton of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority said DRS will review the paths in light of passenger services demands. PC reported ESTA said GA needs to ask NR to ask DRS to release the paths, and a letter had been written to GA's Deputy MD Mike Kean. AT said he briefed GA's Community Partnerships Manager Paul Haynes who is to contact Bill Hamilton. AT said he raised the issue with GA's MD Jamie Burles and GA's Mike Kean at the GA Stakeholder Advisory Board meeting on 4/12.

Sizewell 'C' Consultation

RD said the EDF debriefing provided no new information. EDF in consultation with Network Rail – but no details. RD said EDF is to abandon a passing loop at Wickham Market, and look at dualling a longer section. PC said what is being looked at is dualling a long section from south of Wickham Market station to Ufford or just north of Melton level crossing.

Level Crossings & Journey Times

PC said he would have an updated document by the end of the year.

First Bus 64

PC said he talked with Jonathan Denby about the 64 bus. AT said GA's new Community Partnerships Manager Paul Haynes has briefed new GA Integrated Transport Manager Paul Wilkinson; meeting set for early January.

Connecting Buses

GB produced a spreadsheet of ESL rail services and bus connections and said some bus timings could be adjusted to make better connections. AT contacted SCC and timetable posters for the 62 bus are now at Wickham Market Station bus stop. AT said the service is promoted on ESL social media sites and YouTube along with with DRT services.

AOB: none

Future meetings: Darsham in March 2018, Lowestoft June 2018, Wickham Market September 2018. Dates to be determined.

Meeting closed 14:00