



Draft minutes of the Line Group South meeting, Tuesday 3 December 2019 at Ipswich Station

Attended

Aaron Taffera (AT)	LGS Chairman / Adopter Melton Station
Alan Neville (AN)	Greater Anglia Community and Customer Engagement Manager
Claire Kendall (CK)	East Suffolk Lines CRP Officer
Margaret Hancock (MH)	Suffolk Local Access Forum
Nigel Hiley (NH)	Saxmundham Town Council
Peter Cogar (PC)	ESTA
Chris Wheeler (CW)	Resident of Friston
Geof Butterwick (GB)	Melton Parish Council
Bill Howard (BH)	Middleton Parish Council
Steve Mitchell (SM)	Adopter Wickham Market Station

Apologies received

Todd Strehlow (TS)	Resident of Campsea Ashe
John Fisher (JF)	Saxmundham Town Council and East Suffolk Council
Roy Dowding (RD)	Middleton Parish Council
Bob Webb (BW)	LGS Vice Chairman / Adopter Wickham Market Station / Station House Community Connections

Minutes: The minutes of the 17/9 meeting, which were circulated and corrected prior to the meeting, were reviewed and accepted as a true and accurate record.

Finance Report: The finance report was presented. Expenditure amounted to £4.90 for travel reimbursement for MH. The balance stood at £1,746.58. AT to chase up GB's request for the CRP budget. GB said it was important for the entire group to see the report. AT said it will be presented in a different fashion per guidelines from ACoRP and the DfT.

Membership: LGS members approved Richard Charnock-Smith's application for membership on condition he accepts the CRP's aims and objectives. Mr Smith is from Framlingham who is a retired engineer and has a background in railways. He considers both Wickham Market and Saxmundham as his home stations. The group welcomed NH attending on behalf of JF.

Officer Report: CK said she has been on some social media courses; was working to promote the Stena Line ESL boat train around springtime as the line in Holland has been upgraded and is now open; CK presented some of the CRP branded merchandise she had purchased for promotional activities included canvas bags. CK said the Suffolk Wildlife Trust had adopted

Oulton Broad South Station and a press release was forthcoming. CK mentioned the CRP would be applying for Accredited Status to be able to continue to access AcoRP's higher tier of grant funding. CK also said the CRP would put on a festive train on 21/12 which would be the 10.17 Ipswich to Lowestoft, and the 12:07 in the return direction. PC said the train could be busy. AN said the one-car trains have been transferred out. AN said CK's railway background has helped an awful lot.

Greater Anglia Update: The group welcomed AN who said it was good to meet people he hadn't met before. AN said the new trains began in service on the Ipswich - Lowestoft route yesterday (2/12). AN said feedback from passenger has been very positive. Most of the bi-mode trains have now been transported to the UK. New CIS screens and help points are going in at all stations. CW asked when will work begin on Saxmundham station. AN said the work had been approved and will relay a start date as soon as he is informed. AN said he is happy to talk to Saxmundham Town Council again about the project. NH said not everything had been picked up, that there was a neighbourhood plan, that he would like to work with GA on the plan which includes the station environs. NH said he was concerned about charging at the rail car park which might cause people to park on streets surrounding the station. AN said non-rail users parking at the rail station car park would be a concern if it were not chargeable. It was noted the charge at the adjacent East Suffolk Council car-park is £2.30 per day. NH said there could be a concern if the car park charges were different. AN said revenue figures for chargeable car parks were being reviewed. PC said at Melton there are 26 or 27 spaces: prior to charging it was always full by 7:30am but it wasn't known if they were rail users; PC said 15 spaces were occupied this morning. PC said three passengers who arrived a few minutes prior to the train were able to get a space as a result. PC said ESTA supports charging in principle but favours a £2 per-day tariff instead of the current £3 charge; PC said it's about getting the right balance. GB said peak parking has moved to the streets. PC said Melton riverside car park is now being utilised instead. CK asked if 20 minutes for drop-off/collection was allowed; AN said yes. AN said Ipswich - Lowestoft Sunday services will go hourly beginning 15/12. NH said the last train on Sunday's is too early as the last service to Ipswich from Halesworth is at 20:36. AN said we are some time away from major timetable changes; GB asked about the 40 week lead time for revisions. AN said he would ask his colleague in timetable planning to attend an LGS meeting.

Line Group South Action Plan – The updated plan was discussed at the meeting.

Darsham Station Damp – AT said GA's Asset team is discussing finances; AN confirmed. DCC has said they are receiving complaints from guests.

Saxmundham Station, signage and platform - In addition to the discussion about Saxmundham during AN's report, AT said he was awaiting costs on the finger-post signs and vinyls from Suffolk Highways via SCC which the LGS would consider funding. AT said GA Assets is considering a step free pedestrian route that would connect the rail and ESC car parks. NH said the ESC toilets next to the station are out of and would take up with ESC. AN said there was a new adopter at Saxmundham who is interested in developing some of the areas that will abut the new car park. The new adopter will join the current one.

Saxmundham Flower Tubs – AT delivered the LGS funded tubs on 20/9 which were planted by the adopter that day.

Wickham Market Station Poster Boards – GA installed the boards 2/10; AT populated with content.

Wickham Market Station Name Change – SHCC working with Cllr Nicoll who is talking with GA. SHCC conferred with Therese Coffey. AN said a name change involves many different systems.

AN mentioned Audley End for Saffron Walden. SM said the name change had also been requested by people outside the local area. PC said Campsea Ashe for Wickham Market wouldn't necessarily make it clearer; PC also said not including Wickham Market could cause upset. GB said Meridian Water replaced Angel Road; AN said the name change costs were paid for by Enfield Council. AN said GA has committed obligations it needs to pay for which are ring-fenced. SM said GA isn't being asked to fund it. SM said an accurate figure was needed; GB said fundraising can't take place until a figure is presented.

Melton Station Improvement Scheme – AT said Melton PC was not willing to help fund the design for the footpath. ESC Councillor Rachel Smith-Lyte to consider helping to fund the design in the new year from her locality budget. GB said the installation of a southbound bus shelter may not happen as the 65 service-frequency is less than half that of the old 800 service.

Timetabling and Clock-face Paths – No additional update. SM said we should strive to see at least one of the paths released.

Sizewell C Stage 4 Consultation – AT said the response had been submitted. AT said GA had also asked for dualling sections of the track in their response.

Connecting Buses – AT said he had met with GA to talk about promoting DRT as a way to get to Framlingham using the rail network, and that he and CK met with the folks from CATS. CK said the service needs to be marketed as things like the **25% off group-of-4 fare** are unknown to most people. GB mentioned the 63 Bus as a way to promote Framlingham using the rail service at Woodbridge; PC said it was not viable due to the service pattern and suggested the 118/119 via Westerfield instead. GB said DRT services needed to update technology with things like pay by card/contactless card.

Marketing/PR – AT said the Line Guide had been updated and was valid from 9/12 as it mentions the service is hourly seven days a week. AT said updated CRP map posters had recently been installed. He presented a Foodie Guide TS had given him from the Exeter – Barnstaple route; AT said he has talked with GA marketing about creating one for the ESL in the new year; CK suggested a pub guide. SM displayed a mini-timetable from 2012 when the service went hourly weekdays and asked if an updated version were possible; CK to take up.

ESL Walks - The next guided walks are Saturday 7/12, Brampton to Beccles, and Saturday 28/12, Woodbridge Circular with shorter options from Melton.

AOB – BH relayed a concern from LGS member Peter Cannon who said he has observed students illegally crossing the track at Saxmundham at the north end of the Ipswich-bound platform to get to the Lowestoft-bound platform. BH said Peter Cannon suggested creating access to the northern end of the Lowestoft-bound which would lead to St. Johns Street and the bus shelter on the High Street. AT said he and two GA representatives visited the area in 2018 and proposed the same access point as a way of creating a much shorter route to the bus stop; this was in light of the then-new through ticket to Aldeburgh. AT to raise again.

BH relayed from Peter Cannon that there was more history about Saxmundham than the CRP map posters listed; BH said Peter Cannon would like to write a summary which could be included in the next revision of the poster.

Next Meeting - Provisionally Wednesday 4 March 2020, 11:10 at Darsham Station

Meeting closed 12:58