

## Milton Keynes and Bletchley Rail User Group

### Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 2 May 2006

**Present:** Louise Green, Andrew Fisher, Alan Francis, Peter J Smith, Bob Dolley (Virgin Trains)

**Apologies:** Sean Hickey, Robert Prosser, Andrew Couldrake, Stuart Nightingale, Steve Leyland (Virgin Trains), Paul Bryan (Silverlink Trains)

#### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Outstanding Issues

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Point 4: Louise Green had been in contact with the Secretary of the NRUG and they confirmed that a delegation from MKBRUG may attend their next meeting on Saturday 6 May 2006. Peter Smith explained that he has also invited Chris Wright of OBRAC to attend and asked if the committee were happy if he attended as part of the MKBRUG delegation. There were no objections. Peter Smith, Louise Green, Alan Francis and Chris Wright will therefore attend.

Peter Smith expressed his concern at the poor turnout at meetings and asked what we might do to improve matters. Alan Francis suggested co-opting people on to the Committee. Louise Green offered to devise some text for a poster which could be put up at MKC and Bletchley. **Action: LG**

#### 2. Update from Silverlink Train Services

There was no representative from Silverlink present at the meeting.

#### 3. Update from Virgin Train Services

Bob Dolley informed the committee that Richard Branson had recently announced intentions to improve the frequency and speed of inter-city services. They are also hoping to increase the capacity of Pendolinos to ten cars. The committee queried where this would leave Silverlink in terms of capacity on the fast line.

#### 4. Department for Transport Letter Regarding 2008 Timetable

Louise Green has made contact with Nicky Simpson and copy of the draft letter regarding the 2008 timetable was circulated. A number of small changes were made and Louise Green will send it out in Alan Francis' name. **Action: LG**

Alan Francis then mentioned the franchise letter which needs further work. He will re-circulate this letter and ask for comments. **Action: AF**

#### 5. Report from Passenger Focus Fares Conference

Alan Francis confirmed that he had attended this conference at which a paper had been circulated regarding the developments in fares over the past few years. The overriding conclusion was that the fares system was overly complicated. In the

afternoon a number of workshops had run. Alan Francis attended one on integrated ticketing systems. The intention is to operate a UK wide system similar to the Oyster card although not all current systems use the national standard technology.

6. Feedback from MK Stations Group

Alan Francis explained that he sits on a group looking at the upgrade to MKC, Bletchley and Wolverton stations. At the last meeting, it appeared that there had been a shift regarding the proposed new entrance to Bletchley station. It has now been suggested that it be sited near the southern end of the slow line platform in the space under the flyover. A new footbridge would then be built a little to the south of the existing one. This configuration is slightly better for access to the new flyover. Alan Francis has now received the gradient profile but the site of the new platform is governed by a huge amount of technical rules relating to health and Safety. A new, seven storey, car park is also being considered.

Milton Keynes council and English Partnerships have agreed to pay for the extra bay platform at MKC and the work will be carried out at the same time as the other upgrade work. This is good news for the proposed East/West link. A report is to be drawn up making firm proposals on the East/West link. It is due to be published in the Summer and is expected to include proposals for a two track line. It is understood that the Department for Transport is very supportive of the proposal but will not pay for it.

7. Group Admin'

Andrew Fisher reported that the bank now requires personal details of Committee members. He will email absent members regarding this. **Action: A. Fisher**

8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 6 June 2006 at 19.30