

Milton Keynes and Bletchley Rail User Group

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 1 May 2007

Present: Louise Green, Alan Francis, Andrew Fisher, Peter J Smith, Sean Hickey, Chris Wright, Paul Bryan (Silverlink Trains), Jim Holden (Project Interface Manager, Silverlink Trains)

Apologies: Robert Prosser, Andrew Couldrake, Phyllis Starkey, Steve Leyland (Virgin Trains)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Outstanding Issues

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and there were no outstanding issues.

2. Update from Silverlink Train Services

Paul Bryan reported that the charter performance stood at 95.4% for peak services. The all day public performance figure was 92.9%.

Paul Bryan introduced Jim Holden, who reports to Paul, and who is managing the works at Milton Keynes Central. Jim reported that the project will allow for a new fast line, Platform 6, behind Platform 5. This will be a through route allowing other trains to stop. He confirmed that it should provide the group with greater arguing power when persuading TOCs to put in extra services to and from Milton Keynes. There will also be a new bay platform, 2a, which should allow for more flexibility for Bedford trains and hopefully a service to Oxford. All through platforms will take 12 cars. Platform 1 will become a through road.

Jim informed the meeting that the clearance of the embankment behind Platform 5 has begun and hoarding is being erected. The multi-storey car park will remain open although 140 spaces will be lost at the south end car park. A temporary car park will be provided on the old hockey stadium practice pitch, at the north end of the station, with the entrance on Eldergate. This should be up and running by June and will have good lighting and CCTV. At Christmas, the footbridge at the north end of the station will be taken down. Unfortunately, a replacement will not be in place until April/May. The Southern footbridge will remain open.

Louise Green asked if there were likely to be any blockades during weekdays. Jim Holden confirmed that there were no details available at present although a blockade was planned over Christmas 2007 and 2008.

Paul Bryan reported that there will be a complete smoking ban on all Silverlink property from 1 July, in line with national legislation.

Sean Hickey asked if it would be possible for the Chamber of Commerce to have a leaflet regarding the station works so that they could inform local businesses. Jim Holden agreed to send one as soon as they are available. **Action: JH**

3. Update from Virgin Train Services

Louise Green confirmed that apologies had been received from Steve Leyland but that he was contactable by mobile if the Committee had any queries. There were no issues raised.

4. Any Other Business

Alan Francis reported that Serco/Nedrail has confirmed that they will attend the June meeting. They are one of the potential franchisees for West Midlands.

Louise Green mentioned that the group had received an email from BRTA and she agreed to circulate it. **Action: LG**

Alan Francis informed the committee that there are plans to erect a new footbridge at Bletchley Station, just south of the existing bridge, which will be partly inside the ticket barriers, for ticket holders only, and partly for public access outside the barriers.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday June 5 2007 at 19.30