

MK RAIL USERS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 12th Feb 2008 held a MK Central station

Present: Philip Lawton, Peter Smith, Jill Hope , Andrew Fisher, Andrew Couldrake, Chris Wright, Louise Green, Steven Barker, Alan Francis, Robert Prosser, Stuart Nightingale

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting were accepted and actions had been completed. There had been some confusion over refunds for **strike days** and it was now clear that National Conditions apply with TOCs having discretion to pay refunds and Silverlink decided not to pay out. It was agreed this was not satisfactory and we would continue to seek change for the future via Dft and MPs.

2 LM Report was not available due to sickness of Paul Bryan. He had, however, provided some information on the funding available to him for MK.

3 Wolverton RUG was discussed and whether MKRU should be representing Wolverton. Peter Smith and Alan Francis agreed that Wolverton RUG was active and that the station needed a focus. MKRU would, therefore, not represent issues concerning Wolverton but was open to further discussion when/if WRUG felt it appropriate. The funding for the station was, however, welcomed.

4 Representation at Outside Bodies needed to be clarified as to who represents group and when attending in other roles.

5 Subscriptions were needed as the Treasurer reported that only £50 remained. *Committee* were asked to pay their subs at next meeting if they had not done so already. Suggestion made that at the 2008 AGM non-member attendees would be asked to pay on entrance (subscription) to meeting (as Rugby RUG).

6 Emergency procedure arrangements should be *discussed with LM* as some problems occurred this week following an incident. It was felt that the train operators need to co-ordinate action to prevent unnecessary delay. It was felt that compensation arrangements are not widely known and could *be publicised by MKRU*.

7 Web site was progressing and well received. *Steve Barker hoped to do further work and publish shortly*. It is envisaged that there will be links to other relevant sites.

8 MKRU representatives meetings with MK Partnership, LM and Dft were reported on and summaries circulated prior to the meeting. All the meetings had been very informative. It was felt that the results of a *customer survey* would enhance future meetings.

- **MK Partnership** provided insights into MKP role and MKC funding and EWRL developments. Further meetings were planned and an invitation to join their stakeholder meetings may be forthcoming
- **LM** were keen to engage stakeholders and showed interested in the need for faster services from MKC. It had become clear that LM were key to securing commuter service improvements and especially faster services in peaks to/from London. Peter Smith noted the need to ensure we meet the decision makers at LM although a meeting with their Head of Planning may be forthcoming.
- **Dft** meeting was very well received and has clarified pathing issues and a possible option for fast LM services if business case was made. DFT were aware of growth plans for MK and issues that arise for rail. They clarified the provision of northbound services from MKC to Chester, Manchester and Birmingham. MKRU requested additional stops at MKC to trains serving north-west and Glasgow destinations. Dft noted Watford-Clapham Junction service may be extended to MKC in 2009

- **Virgin trains** – at this stage it had been agreed that a meeting with Virgin was not essential. However dialogue needs to be maintained to ensure that MKC retains the services it has gained.

9 MKRU representatives meetings with MPs

- **Dr Starkey MP** welcomed the opportunity to talk with MKRU at the House of Commons and would continue to seek better services for MK. Dr. Starkey welcomed future briefings by this group in order to support our aims and objectives
- **Mark Lancaster MP** had failed to respond with firm dates for a meeting.

10. Future Meetings planned

- **Cllr Chris Williams**, MK Council Cabinet Member -Transport is seeking to *finalise a date* to meet. It may be helpful to meet Steve Mortimer, their officer.
- In addition meetings will be arranged as necessary with all stakeholder bodies

11. AOB

- **2008 timetable** details had been received and analysed. Bletchley was set to gain extra services but some changes could see overcrowding. *Philip was sending feedback to LM*
- **Station Square Improvements**, discussed in MKP meetings attended by Alan Francis these were presented to the group and received little support. *Could be raised when meet with MK Council* and further information sought.

NEXT MEETING is scheduled for 4th March at 1930 at MK Central Station.