



# Community Rail Partnership

## Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Place: Online via TEAMS

Time: 1300-1530

Invited:	<p>Aaron Taffera – (AT) Chair, ESLCRP and Line Group South</p> <p>Tracey Vobe - (TV) Suffolk County Council, Vice Chair, ESLCRP</p> <p>Michael Newsham – (MN) Ipswich Borough Council</p> <p>Claire Kendall – (CK) ESLCRP Officer</p> <p>Graham Newman – (GN) Chair, Line Group East</p> <p>Trevor Garrod – (TG) Acting Chair, Line Group North</p> <p>Alan Neville – (AN) Community and Customer Engagement Manager, Greater Anglia</p> <p>Paul Webster – (PW) Operations Manager South, Community Rail Network</p> <p>Charles Baker-(CB) Public Affairs Manager Anglia route, Network Rail</p>
----------	--

Item	Time	Item Description	Lead
1.	1300	Welcome, Introductions; receipt of apologies Apologies from MN & Charles Baker (CB)	AT
2.	1303	Declarations of Interest (DOI) None that have not previously been stated. All agreed that it was unnecessary to repeat known DOI's	AT
3.	1305	Matters Arising None	All
4.	1310	Thank you Carolyn Barnes All appreciated the support, dedication and thoroughness that Carolyn brought to her role within the CRP board. She will be missed. The CRP hopes to continue strong links with ESC with her replacement. CK to email thanks	All
5.	1315	Approval of minutes from the meeting 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 Accepted with 1 minor change proposed by AN regarding mask wearing on trains. CK to change. TG proposed, GN seconded	AT
6.	1325	Financial Update TV has had problems invoicing Greater Anglia but AN will forward onto Glasgow address. All healthy operating funds at present. PW queried how Delegated funds for Line Groups are distributed. LGE funds are sent to and administered by ESC, LGN have their own bank account, LGS submits invoices to SCC . The balance for LGS from AT will be inputted by TV on budget.	TV
7.	1335	Activity Plan Review (most cancelled/postponed due to pandemic): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Festive Train</b> cancelled and hopefully to re-run in 2021</li> <li>2) <b>Dementia Train</b> cancelled and hopefully to re-run in 2021</li> <li>3) <b>Community Rail in the City (CRiTC)</b> cancelled and hopefully to re-run in 2021</li> </ol>	All

- 4) **Heritage Open days** mostly cancelled and hopefully to re-run in 2021
- 5) **Schools safety campaign.**  
CK working with Becky Crocker from Network Rail (NR) to deliver travel safe and simple travel video in October (we hope) to schools near Derby Road (DBR) and produce kids posters to display at DBR station. Board and Line group East may be approached for help with funding for poster board cases and printing. NR have already funded the video and broadcast. Possible Christmas unveiling of winners as well as an online voting process with much appreciated help from AT on ESL's Facebook page.
- 6) **Rural buses/DRT/Plusbus** TV said that SCC have funded 2 electric buses to trial between Framlingham-Wickham Market-Campsea Ashe (currently just these 3 limited stop's). Soft launch December and start January 2021 for real. Demand responsive via an app. CATS will remain but won't overlap. We will now be able to promote Wickham Market-Framlingham Castle. Peter Frost from SCC and AT have been working on infrastructure charge points. The service is a shared taxi model.
- 7) **Days Out in East Suffolk** TG thinks best time to launch this is latter part of March before Easter holidays. The £90 ESLCRP has paid out to rent a room at Ipswich Town Hall will be carried over to 2021 and TG hopes to re-book and at Lowestoft parcels office. LGN have spent £20 on material. TG sort board approval for postponing all until 2021 and he will ask for volunteers and plan. CK & GN need to do similar at Felixstowe. GN to make enquiries at GE square complex. The board were all happy to proceed subject to COVID-19 restrictions. TG will go ahead with plans
- 8) **Quiz or I-SPY for trains/events in colouring packs** all 3 line groups will work on a 'What to see out of the train window' on their line. 10 things per line group to add into I-SPY for kids to tick off when they find them with perhaps a prize? GN volunteered to do Felixstowe line. GN wonders if a leaflet dispenser at Felixstowe, Ipswich and Lowestoft is needed. PW will forward onto us the example from the Penistone line.
- 9) **Dutch Flier** No real progress or news. TG has had some success connecting with his contacts in the Netherlands. CK talked through her visit to Deurne in the Netherlands and meeting with station adopter there. Possibility of twinning with perhaps Ipswich. CK to investigate further. TG reminds that Liverpool Street is already twinned with Amsterdam Central and Lowestoft informally linked with Glossop. CK and TG to pursue further when and if conditions improve.
- 10) **ESL Merch** Have some merchandise purchased for CRITC but as it has been postponed, CK proposed using some of

the existing merchandise for prizes for Derby Road poster campaign as it was purchased for CRITC or other events. No disagreement from board.

Postcards of vintage railway poster still to be done but waiting for decision on how to proceed with Felixstowe mural and then can engage again with artist to do work for all. LGE have voted to use the suggested artist but all still would like some community involvement, but this is challenging to arrange at present. CK will try to arrange meeting with GN at Felixstowe to discuss further and make some progress.

**11) Car Parks**

**Beccles-** TV reports that progress is slow but further ahead than ever before.

**Saxmundham** -Finished, looks good and in use (TG reports that work on the platform and building going out to tender and maybe complete by Christmas with easy access to car park. 2 areas available for rental in the future.

**12) Ranger Ticket** AT reports that update on ranger ticket. PW suggests raising with AN at a later meeting.

**13) ESL walks** No guided walks at the moment due to pandemic, hope to re-start 2021. AT has been putting up lots of ESL waymarkers. PW asks if walks available separately online to print off, AT confirms this.

**\*13b) ESL cycle routes**-CK to add on activity plan. LGN will put on 4 rides from their line, TG will check over his former routes on a previous publication with LGN and LGS and CK is to talk to bike hire/repair shops to pursue any links between themselves and the ESL's. This project must be approached with caution as GA can only take 6 bikes per train (although no restrictions on fold-ups). At least with a bike, passengers may feel comfortable cycling to the next station if denied train access for an hour due to full capacity of bikes. TG says that he has colleagues who are keen to help. TG wants a clear idea of what the booklet should contain and suggests a working party of 6 people to pursue this. AT suggests working up 1 route at a time to perfect and then replicate. AT will start with a route GN has proposed when he has time and all will come together in a guide to bike/train in your local area-perhaps 'ESL ride the rails'? His contact Mark in SCC is keen to help & be involved. TG will try to organise a meeting between GN, TG, AT & CK to meet with additional cycling enthusiasts from each area if possible, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

**14) Timetabling** No change. GN suggests that there is little chance of getting 2 paths back as Sizewell C will need 1 but perhaps 1 path could still be targeted.

**15) Level crossings** Complete and CK/AT to take off action plan.

**16) First light Festival 2020** cancelled. All hope can be involved in 2021 if it can run. TG says that Lowestoft have donated funds

		<p>to FLF 2021</p> <p><b>17) Oulton Broad and Sustrans</b> AT awaiting action agreement and update from Sustrans.</p> <p><b>18) Carlton Marshes</b> Visitor centre hopefully open sometime this autumn. CK reports that all railway walks were cancelled and Katie Runacres who was education leader for SWT has left. CK to chase up contacts again.</p> <p><b>19) Halesworth signage</b> Station adopter has ordered new bus/town centre signs and they are currently at her house awaiting GA pick up and installation. The memorial bench at Halesworth has been renovated by station adopters and TG</p> <p><b>20) Folk East 2020</b> cancelled. All hope to link up with organisers in 2021 version.</p> <p><b>21) Saxmundham Signage</b>-at AT's house awaiting council to on installation</p> <p><b>22) Melton Footpath</b> after consultation with PW, AT suggests taking this off the Action plan as no progress likely to be made</p> <p><b>23) Saxmundham Flower Tubs/interpretation boards</b> Adopter asked for funds from LGS and hopes to progress when works at Saxmundham complete</p> <p><b>24) Wickham Market flowers Tubs</b> Adopters asked for preference on type and funds to be ask of LGS</p> <p><b>25) Felixtowe mural</b> -LGE voted on approaching artist to complete mural as well as postcards etc but there was still some hope that GN could involve contacts at Felixstowe Academy. CK &amp; GN to meet and discuss further</p> <p><b>26) Ipswich Station</b>- stalled a little due to restrictions and difficulties with how to progress college working at Ipswich station with renovation works to be completed summer 2021. CK is in touch with college and had a meeting in July to discuss ideas. Ipswich station adopter and Jackie Rathbone-GA manager at Ipswich station attended and agreed plans. CK to pursue further and gain costs/funding</p> <p><b>27) Westerfield Bees, Butterflies and Cubs project</b>- Funding obtained. GA press release prepared</p>	
8.	1410	<p>Chair Update</p> <p>Circulated prior to meeting</p>	AT
9.	1415	<p>Officer Update</p> <p>No report circulated prior as off work most of the holidays</p> <p>-Reported on Derby Road:</p> <p>-Preparations for joint venture with Network Rail on a kids safety video and poster campaign for local schools</p> <p>-Preparations for wildflower meadow</p> <p>-Preparations for Ipswich Station Garden Project</p> <p>-visit to Deurne, The Netherlands to visit station adopter and look at twinning possibilities.</p> <p>-attended many useful conference and online courses</p>	CK
10.	1425	<p>Greater Anglia Update</p> <p>-Busy &amp; fruitful summer, AN delighted to welcome back station adopters to stations with new COVID risk assessments.</p>	AN

- AN's weekly Brief is very well received
- Highlighted good work of Sandy/AT at Westerfield, and AT/CK at Derby Road and attention to detail by adopters at Halesworth.
- CRP's will bring people back to Rail & great ambassadorial role
- suggests CRP's meet virtually with GA Head of Commercial Marketing-David Metherell to discuss fare, idea's and timetabling. AN will arrange
- GA now has 5 CRP's including the New River Line with Katie Goldthorpe as CRPO.
- dates for diary GA Community Rail day 01/10/20 and GA adopters awards on 16/10/20. Needs more participants and nominations/
- Reassuring 'safer travel pledge' now in place on GA to increase public confidence to travel by rail
- GA praised for high standards of cleanliness due to new fogging guns, Vac PACs, extra cleaning staff and checks.
- school kids welcomed back on the trains, reporting on numbers using trains, as well as problems analysed eg crowding, bunching and non-wearing of face masks etc
- still very slow growth of passenger numbers
- Emergency Measures Agreement with Dft in place until 20<sup>th</sup> September to help support train companies.
- Evidence, feedback and stats reported on each week to Dft 720's for use on suburban lines still performing test runs but now passed fit for service.

Currently excellent service stats. Nearly 95% PPM. Currently roughly 93% of service now operating across network with Stansted express frequency now increased

- High levels of trespass incidents across network, most notable at Beccles, Harlow and Ipswich station
- Higher number than usual of bridge bashes, most notable at Coldham Lane, Cambridge
- Complaints from nearby residents of train:
  - a)horn noise near foot crossings, but cannot really solve as trains need to use horns at whistle boards as directed by Railway Rule Book.
  - B) Crossing jointed track-not cheap/easy to solve
  - C) Bi-mode engine fans which GA/Stadler trying to solve/quieten

Q& A's PW q'd about marketing-is GA putting out messages about when to travel & avoid bunching as other TOCS-AN A'd yes and described measures to avoid such as quiet trains publicised on internet.

PW also q'd about ticketing and possible moves towards flexible season ticketing and carpets as well as possible change of GA market to predominantly leisure travel. AN a'd that all was being considered and that branch lines busier than mainline.

GN commented that all will be more apparent when furlough ends in October but at the moment cars are considered the safest form of PPE sadly.

TG commented that important to encourage people to travel to events such as Heritage Open Days by train and that GA

		<p>definitely need to have lots of special offers to encourage people out and about.</p> <p>AN notes that whilst most people are complying with face mask requests, approx 1.9% are not. Most state they have a medical condition. Some are abusive when challenged.</p> <p>AN also adds that some other TOCS are allowing staff through trains for ticket check and that GA may soon change their policy also.</p> <p>AN also advises of ticket machine readers and amazon 'pick-up points' being installed and sometimes causing problems like at Felixstowe where it's blocking visibility of PIS's (passenger Information Screens)</p>	
11.	1440	<p>Network rail update (CB unable to attend)</p> <p>CK read out various NR updates including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- info about the forthcoming 9 day blockade of the ESL (Saxmundham-Lowestoft rail replacements) in October to replace worn out track (24/10-02/11</li> <li>-December 2020 Felixstowe line shut for 3 Sundays for track replacement work</li> <li>-3 successive weekend closure Feb/Mar 2021 for Woodbridge level crossing upgrade work (CB can provide us with copy of residents letter if we wish)</li> <li>-Sunday OHL work around Stratford to help reduce temperature related overhead wire tension problems and prevent resulting emergency temp speed restrictions (Sundays 18/10/20-22/11/20 inclusive)</li> <li>-emergency repair work to wheel timbers around Ely/Manea affecting the Ipswich-Peterborough route</li> <li>-Bottle neck at Ely North Junction is being looked at again with a new public consultation on the matter (21/09/20-01/11/20)</li> <li>-upgrading Somerleyton, Reedham and Oulton Broad swingbridges to reduce delays</li> <li>-proposed Beaulieu station (near Chelmsford/Witham) public engagement launch in July 2020 to support wider economic development and 14k new home in the area. Target date for completion 2025/26 with expect 2 million passengers a year</li> <li>-New initiative to reduce bridge strike incidents with £190k investment to install CCTV cameras on most 'at-risk' bridges across Anglia region being fitted end Aug 2020. Cameras capture images of bridge deck area allowing faster evaluation of strike and can potentially catch culprit if they drive off. Each strike currently costs approx £13k-£23million annually.</li> <li>-An interactive map of major project available on <a href="http://Networkrail.co.uk">Networkrail.co.uk</a></li> </ul>	CK
12.	1445	<p>Community Rail Network Update</p> <p>-Community Rail in the City 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic but hopes that 2021 is possible. PW said some CRP's did mini events with freebies and leaflets although as GN commented, people are wary of picking up things at present and TG comments that some places he's visited are not happy with</p>	PW

		<p>leaflets being left for people to pick up.  CRN awards 9<sup>th</sup> December will be online  CRN webinar on tourism 28/09/20 how to support and encourage local tourism and economy and connect effectively with them.</p>	
13.	1500	<p>Line Group Updates: East/North/South LGE (GN)  Felixstowe-Need new signage as several faded or missing and looks poor. Lighting also poor and need attention. Station adopter has planted a wildlife garden. No improvement about bins liners which get attacked by seagulls and cause an unsightly mess.  Trimley-car park still poorly used and thinks still not sufficient signage about the 20 min waiting bays to allow people to drop off  Derby Road-Now new shelters and Amazon Pick up point hub. Local councillor Philip smart and station adopter liaising and proposing new footpath between the station and new housing developments. GN has written to local council about lack of signage from the road to the station as it is hard to know the station exists from the street  Westerfield-as reported above  LGN (TG)-minutes of LGN last meeting circulated recently &amp; TG has to leave shortly for another meeting.  TG suggests ESL's need a new line guide, but consensus that it is fine for now.  Halesworth-LGN may consider funding a new bit of picket fence  LGS (AT)-Darsham- dampwork has been completed  Melton-guttering has been replaced and repaired</p>	GN/TG/AT
14.	1525	<p>Any other urgent business  CK asks if we should get some corporate clothing for events. All agreed to spend up to £130 on corporate clothing as quoted by Hudson signs. Quote circulated on 10/09/20. CK to chase up  Next board meeting 10<sup>th</sup> December 1300</p>	All
	1530	Close	