

## **BARRUP (BROMSGROVE & REDDITCH RAIL USER PARTNERSHIP)**

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Committee Room, Parkside, Bromsgrove  
on Tuesday 2 July 2024 at 19.00

### **Present**

Robert Cholmondeley (Chairman & Secretary), Paul Evans, Peter Hughes, Sean Shannon, Nick Taylor, Graham Vickery, Tony Woodward

#### **1. Apologies**

- Apologies were received from Paul Fuller and Clem Huzzey.

#### **2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- As the previous meeting was not quorate, the minutes of the following meetings were approved: 16.1.24 and 16.4.24 plus the AGMs of 14.3.23 and 16.4.24.

#### **3. Improvements sought from WMR (West Midlands Rail)**

- Possible dates are being explored for a meeting offered by WMT on the following possible improvements.
- **Birmingham – Hereford services to call at Barnt Green** – Kings Norton is the pinch point, but any flexibility in timetabling is being questioned by BARRUP.
- **Connection northbound to Barnt Green (& Redditch) at Bromsgrove** – if the Hereford services cannot call at Barnt Green, attention needs to be diverted to reducing the 46 minute wait at Bromsgrove when changing from the service from Hereford to the Cross City service calling at Barnt Green. Integrating into available train paths and turn round times are the difficulties.
- **07.52 Worcester Foregate Street to Birmingham New Street to call at Bromsgrove** – This service is already crowded at Droitwich. WMR has indicated that it is looking at the issue.
- **Later train than 22.21 to Bromsgrove on Saturday nights** – WMR would like to offer an improvement but it goes against the tide of Network Rail wanting more time for track access.
- **Reinstate Poster and Pocket Timetables** – BARRUP has asked for the moral justification WMR agreed to socially discriminate against the 16% of the population who do not have a smartphone.
- **Installation of Departure Screen and PA at Barnt Green Platform 1** – the new style screens on platforms 2, 3 and 4 aren't really an improvement. A list of departures by platform is needed at the entrance points on both Platforms 1 and 4.

- Separately from, but linked to the preceding correspondence, BARRUP wrote to WMR on the article in the April 2024 edition of Modern Railways about the suggestion that Hereford trains could use the Camp Hill line. BARRUP suggested that, on a material timetable change, consideration should also be given to calling at Barnt Green to improve connectivity in north east Worcestershire. The response cited potential delays to the Cross City line northbound at Kings Norton which is the very problem that the use of the Camp Hill line would alleviate.

#### **4. XC (Cross Country) Developments**

- Kyle Daisley (Worcestershire County Councillor for Bromsgrove South) wrote on 18 May to XC making the case for some XC services to call at Bromsgrove to give direct access to Worcestershire Parkway and Cheltenham. It was agreed to follow up after the general election.

#### **5. Approach to GWR (Great Western Railway) on connections at Worcester Foregate Street**

- WMR have provided a contact at GWR. It was agreed to question the inconsistencies and seek improvements to the connection times from the Bristol to Worcester services to the Hereford to Birmingham New Street services.

#### **6. Station Round Up**

- **Bromsgrove** – Nick Taylor agreed to follow up on the points about the state of the station raised at the meeting with Andrew Leo of WMRE last December.
- **Redditch** – there's no further news on the proposed station upgrade.
- **Alvechurch** – no update
- **Barnt Green** – Network Rail are hosting a drop in session on the installation of lifts on Monday 5 August at 19.00 at the Friends Meeting House, Sandhills Road, Barnt Green.

#### **7. Service Update**

- The new class 730s were liked by members, not least the bigger windows.
- It was noted that the heating/air con of the class 196s is noisy and that the aircraft style seats are rather cramped.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

- None

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

- The availability of the room on a Tuesday evening in early September is to be sought.

RC 6.7.24