

BARRUP (BROMSGROVE & REDDITCH RAIL USER PARTNERSHIP)

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Committee Room, Parkside, Bromsgrove
on Tuesday 26 November 2024 at 14.30

Present

Robert Cholmondeley (Chairman & Secretary), Paul Evans, Neil Franklin, Nick Taylor, Tony Woodward.

1. Apologies

- Apologies were received from Peter Hughes and Graham Vickery.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2024 were approved.

3. New Timetables w.e.f. 15 December 2024

- Among the welcome improvements to the Hereford line service is the addition of 3 new services, one northbound in the morning and 2 southbound in the evening rush hours. The new morning service will call at Bromsgrove at 07.42 but this still leaves a gap to the next arrival at 08.43. BARRUP will still press for the service from Worcester/Droitwich which passes through around 08.15 to stop at Bromsgrove to serve the town's businesses.
- It was noted that there are no material changes to the Cross City line service.
- There are no improvements in the consistency of Great Western Railway arrival times at Worcester Foregate Street from Bristol/Cheltenham to provide a viable connection to the hourly West Midlands Rail service via Bromsgrove to Birmingham New Street.

4. Approach to local MPs

- BARRUP has written to the MPs for Bromsgrove and Redditch requesting a joint meeting. One of the MPs has agreed to a meeting with a date arranged, though there has been no response yet from the other. Further contact will be made.

5. West Midlands Trains (WMT) Update

- BARRUP will contact WMT again at the end of February to follow up on the issues discussed in August 2024. There may be opportunities based on changes in train loadings and performance improvements from the new rolling stock.

- There was a general concern that the level of cancellations leaves the public seeing rail travel as an unreliable form of public transport.

6. Cross Country Update

- A response has not been received to BARRUP's letter to Cross Country Trains asking for a meeting to explain the case for some of their services to call at Bromsgrove. A chaser will be sent.

7. Station Round Up

- **Bromsgrove** – nothing has been delivered yet since the meeting last December on the state of the station facilities. A further follow up will be sent.
- **Redditch** – no update.
- **Alvechurch** – no update.
- **Barnt Green** – With installation of lifts to commence in January 2025, a walk in session is to take place with Network Rail at 19.00, Monday 16 December at Barnt Green Baptist Church. Contact will be made with Geoff Grant of WMT about reviewing the station's poor screen information and lack of PA on some platforms.

8. Any Other Business

- The following statistics from the ORR (Office of Rail and Road) were discussed.

	Footfall 2023/24	Increase from previous year	%age of highest footfall	Year of highest footfall
Bromsgrove	591,650	+15.2%	74.8%	2019/20
Redditch	848,484	+19.2%	79.0%	2017/18
Alvechurch	151,042	+18.1%	75.5%	2018/19
Barnt Green	297,650	+17.1%	94.3%	2019/20

- It was concluded that, although nationally passenger numbers hover around 90% of pre-covid levels, the 33% cut in Cross City services from pre-covid levels has stymied the use of rail transport in north east Worcestershire.

9. Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be preceded by the AGM and is to be arranged for early March 2025.