

BROMSGROVE AND REDDITCH RAIL USER PARTNERSHIP (BARRUP)

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Committee Room, Parkside, Bromsgrove on Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 19.35

Present

Robert Cholmondeley (Chairman & Secretary), Paul Evans, Nick Taylor, Graham Vickery

1. Apologies

- Apologies were received from Paul Fuller, Peter Hughes, Pat Tansell and Tony Woodward.
- The meeting has a quorum 5 which was not reached. It was agreed that the meeting minutes would be ratified at the next quorate meeting.

2. Minutes 16 January 2024

- The minutes of the previous meeting on 16 January 2024 were approved.

3. Improvements Sought from WMR (West Midlands Rail)

- A list of 7 improvements has been submitted to Cara Higgs (Community Strategy Manager) at WMR requesting a meeting to discuss their viability.
- An article in the April 2024 edition of Modern Railways has a feature on WMR involving Ian McConnell (Managing Director, West Midlands Trains) and Mal Drury-Rose (Executive Director, West Midlands Rail Executive) in which it is proposed to switch the Hereford trains to the Camp Hill line to enable the restoration of 6 trains per hour on the Cross City Line. This would create an opportunity in timetable changes to try and get the Hereford trains to call at Barnt Green to generate better connections with Redditch. This suggestion is to be put to them.
- It was noted that Visit Worcestershire are linking with WMR through joint promotions on social media.

4. Cross Country (XC) Developments

- The motion passed by Bromsgrove District Council to contact XC about services calling at Bromsgrove was noted. The offer of support through a briefing from BARRUP has been agreed.

5. Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy (WRIS) 2022-2050

- In the revised version recently published, the prominence in the strategy of getting links to the south west from North East Worcestershire was agreed to be disappointing.

6. Station Round Up

- Bromsgrove – 2 new bus shelters with real time screens are planned to be installed once Network Rail's agreement has been obtained.
- Redditch - The consultation period on the proposed new station building has now closed. The redevelopment of the buildings at the bottom of Unicorn Hill is still not finalised and has the potential for integration into the station project.
- Alvechurch – no update.
- Barnt Green – Network Rail will attend Barnt Green Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting on 22 April to give an update on the project. No date has been given yet for installation.

7. New Rollings Stock

- It was noted that the first diagram with the new Class 730 trains has been introduced on the Cross City line with full roll out over the coming few months.

8. Any Other Business

- It was noted that the connections to and from Bromsgrove and Redditch at Barnt Green are viable public transport options. Their promotion should be a consideration.
- The stark functionality and poor facilities at Worcestershire Parkway were noted.

9. Date of Next Meeting

- To be arranged for early July, probably a Tuesday evening.

RC 23.4.2024