

BROMSGROVE AND REDDITCH RAIL USER PARTNERSHIP

(BARRUP – formerly BRUG)

Minutes of a meeting held at the Committee Room, Parkside, Wednesday 11 March 2020

Present:

Robert Cholmondeley (Chairman & Secretary), Paul Evans, Neil Franklin, Peter Hughes, Ed Read, Nick Taylor, Graham Vickery, Tony Woodward.

1. Apologies and Minutes

- Apologies had been received from Margaret Evans, Ed Huzzey and Sean Shannon.
- The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2019 were accepted.

2. Change of Name

- It was agreed to rename the group to Bromsgrove and Redditch Rail User Partnership (BARRUP). It will represent Barnt Green and Alvechurch as well as Bromsgrove and Redditch.
- The bank account will be renamed before consideration is given to collecting subscriptions.

3. Worcestershire Parkway

- After failing to open with the December 2019 timetable change, the station opened on Sunday 23 February 2020.
- Tony Woodward presented some pictures of the station and its surroundings from the opening day.
- Tony Woodward is undertaking a detailed piece of work on connections at Worcestershire Parkway. They do not appear good.
- It was agreed that the station provides a limited function for Bromsgrove residents as it is not readily accessible by public transport.

4. West Midlands Rail

- The strike before Christmas 2019 was resolved by an agreement that drivers would open doors and the guard would close them.
- Although there has been a significant improvement in the standard of service since the end of 2019, there remain problems and reliability issues.
- The introduction of the new Class 196 trains should ease some of the overcrowding problems on the Hereford trains when they are phased in, probably in early 2021.
- There is work underway to increase the Hereford – Birmingham New Street service to a half hourly frequency, possibly by the end of 2020.

5. Bromsgrove Station

- The Keep Bromsgrove Beautiful group is in contact with Peter Chapman of the Community Rail Partnership about adoption of the station.
- There is no known date for the opening of the gate onto Garrington Road.
- It has not been thought appropriate to arrange a meeting with the Combined Rail Authority about issues at the station against the backdrop of the service and reliability problems that have had to be actively managed.

6. Redditch

- The unreliability of the Cross City service probably had the most impact at Redditch.
- Worcestershire Parkway does not appear to have any benefit for residents of Redditch without resorting to driving.
- A station adoption group is being formed.

7. Alvechurch and Barnt Green

- A station adoption group is being formed at Alvechurch.
- The potential for better car parking facilities at Alvechurch is being investigated by Worcestershire County Council with a landowner adjacent to the station.
- A meeting has been held between Network Rail and Barnt Green Parish Council updating the progress on getting approval from the Department for Transport for lifts.
- There has been no substantive response from West Midlands Rail to the list of improvements to Barnt Green station submitted by the Parish Council in September 2019.

8. Camp Hill Line

- Decisions are still awaited on the extent of the proposed services on the Camp Hill Line and to where the trains will run.

9. Any Other Business

- It was agreed that the minutes of meetings would be published on the BARRUP website 2 weeks after the meetings. This will give a brief window for attendees to feed back any inaccuracies.