

BARRUP (BROMSGROVE & REDDITCH RAIL USER PARTNERSHIP)

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Committee Room, Bromsgrove District Council,
Parkside, Bromsgrove on Thursday 8 January 2026 at 14.30

Present

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

1. Apologies

- Apologies were received from Margaret Evans and Tony Woodward.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2025 were approved.

3. Cross City Line – 6 trains per hour (tph)

- Some options have been submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) on restoring 6tph in the short term pending delivery of some of the Midlands Rail Hub proposals in the early 2030s. A decision by the DfT is expected in the first half of 2026.

4. Cross Country Trains

- From correspondence with BARRUP, the company has made it clear that it regards itself merely as a service provider, taking its instructions from the DfT (Department for Transport). Unless instructed by the DfT, it does not see that it has a role to play in stopping at Bromsgrove to provide a service over the stretch of line southbound towards Cheltenham where it has a service monopoly.
- The Midlands Rail Hub proposals are for a service calling at Bromsgrove giving direct access to Cheltenham. This is likely to be contingent on the completion of the full delivery of the £1.75bn project at some time in the 2040s.
- In the interim, BARRUP endorsed its aim for a service which calls at Bromsgrove giving direct access to Cheltenham and the south west. Consideration will be given to an approach to the DfT.

5. West Midlands Railway (WMR) – update

- BARRUP met WMR in November to discuss any opportunities on the following points: (a) loadings since the new 07.23 service from Worcester was introduced and any reduction in loadings on the 07.49 which BARRUP seeks to serve Bromsgrove around 08.15; and (b) any improved timings that would permit the Hereford trains to call at Barnt Green (connecting with Redditch) or allowing both Bromsgrove Cross City trains each hour to call at Barnt Green. Once the outcome on the restoration of 6tph on the Cross City Line is known, there will need to be some timetable adjustments from which there may be opportunities to review the enhancements sought by BARRUP.
- BARRUP has had a small success. We requested WMR to get its 21.38 weekday departure from Worcester Foregate Street to call at Bromsgrove. This became effective in December 2025.

6. Network Rail – Saturday night services to Bromsgrove

- Technical data on Saturday night track possessions between 2020 - 2024 between Barnt Green and Bromsgrove have been obtained from Network Rail. Some high level analysis indicates that extending the last 3 Cross City Line trains from Longbridge to Bromsgrove would have a limited impact on Network Rail's track possession requirements.
- BARRUP will make a formal approach to Network Rail for an easing of these track possession arrangements.

7. Station Round Up

- **Bromsgrove** – (a) Flaking Paint and Rust on Steps – the remedial work has been completed but the rust is already showing through again. BARRUP will raise this at its next meeting due in March 2026. (b) Additional Platform Shelters – BARRUP will revert to WMRE (West Midlands Rail Executive) for canopies on platforms. The current 2 shelters on each platform are inadequate in wet weather when people are sheltering by sitting on the steps of the footbridge and unintentionally blocking access to and from the platforms. (c) Car Park – ANPR is to be installed in 2026. (d) Bus Stops – at last, all services to Bromsgrove town centre depart from the same stand. There is no clear signage yet, but it is evidenced from the timetables.
- **Redditch** – New Station Building – Worcestershire County Council is proposing to reduce its capital expenditure budget. Included in the cuts is the cancellation of this project. The final decision has yet to be confirmed, but cancellation is highly likely.
- **Alvechurch** – Car Park Flooding – the aeration project is now underway with new drainage trenches and soakaways. The project's likelihood of success is a bit of an unknown because of the site's Mercia Mudstone which is notorious for not draining.
- **Barnt Green** – (a) Departure Screen on Platform 1 – WMR have located a screen which later turned out to be damaged. Once repaired, the budget to install it will be sought. (b) Lifts – installation has been completed, though one lift shaft has already been out of service for a week.

8. Poster and Pocket Timetables

- BARRUP has had no response to its two letters to the Managing Director of West Midlands Railway expressing concern about the social discrimination and the lower standard of customer service by restricting the availability of timetable information to digital only.
- WMR's senior management have asked its Stakeholder Liaison Manager to respond formally. BARRUP had already raised the issue with him without a satisfactory response.

9. Any Other Business

- There was no other business.

10. Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be arranged for early April. It will be an evening meeting and will include the AGM.