

FOSBR COMMITTEE MEETING – 16 November 2009, at the Cornubia, Temple Street. MINUTES

Present: Bernard, Julie, Rob, Eric, Ian, Lionel, Tony. Also Nigel Bray (Railfuture).

1. Minutes of last meeting (15 September 2009) - matters arising

- a. (Item 1a): Priorities: Ref. whether quadrupling of the Temple Meads to Abbey Woods line would obviate the need for the Clifton Down to Montpelier re-doubling - all we know so far is that, in the draft RUS statement, this will probably have to be done for the coming electrification.
Action: Eric will have another attempt at finding the answer to the question.
- b. (Items 1b): SW Labour MPs Select Committee.
Rob has sent a summary of his submission (to the Select Committee) to Peter and this has gone on the website.
- c. (Item 1c): West of England Partnership Conference on 27th November.
Action: Bernard will go to this Conference.
- d. (Item 1d): Clifton Down turn round: Peter has re-sent the pie chart to Rob.
Action: Rob will circulate this to the Committee and Ian will put it on the website.
- e. (Item 2): FOSBR Meeting at Severn Beach on 10th October 2009: The Committee thanked Bernard and Eric's mother for organising the meeting and catering for the meeting.
Action: It was agreed that we should try to hold some meetings at locations not necessarily on the Severn Beach line – such as at Yatton or in S Glos (e.g. Yate).
- f. (Item 4.): Aspiration for Bristol Metro: Rob/ Eric recently met Julian Crowe (FGW) at a meeting. The idea of FGW hiring a train to show the 'movers and shakers' the potential of rail services in the Region (first mooted by Mark Hopwood) IS being progressed by FGW.
Action: FOSBR to support this and help to ensure that it does happen.

With ref. to the DFT agreement: It was thought that the DFT had an agreement whereby if a local authority has invested in a rail scheme for 3 years and it is judged a success, then it would become part of the rail franchise. Julie reported that in fact this agreement will only come into force following legislation in 2014. Thus the 3 year Bristol CC funding for the SB line would not come under this agreement because it ends before 2014.
- g. (Item 6): Severn Beach options: Lionel noted that Pilning station has no lights and this could restrict its possible greater use in the future.

2. FOSBR Web Site

Because of recent problems with the FOSBR website, changes in the way that it is run are needed. It was decided that:

Action:

- * Julien/Ian will contact Brendan (website supplier) to ask for control over the domain name and get a nominet account.
- * Once we have got a nominet account, Ian will arrange for the account to be switched from the present holder, Stephen Ward, to himself.
- * In order to increase our bandwidth, Ian/Peter will ask Brendan to increase it from the present 0.5 GB to 1.5 GB. If this does not work satisfactorily, then we can change to another supplier at a later date.
- * We should register FOSBR.org. Ian will look into this.
- * With reference to e-mails sent to FOSBR: Ian will set up some FOSBR addresses for these e-mails and then individual Committee members can access these without giving out their private e-mail addresses. It was thought that the following would be needed:
 - Press: Rob, Webmaster: Peter and Ian, Membership: Tony, Newsletter: Julien, Campaigns: Julie, General: Eric

It was discussed whether a blog could be set up on our website for people to send in comments, etc. However there are problems with this and so we will set up a 'Comments' box on the website – and these will be directed to either the 'Campaign' or 'General' e-mail recipients. **Action:** Peter/ Ian to sort out.

3. Response to draft RUS

The FOSBR response to Network Rail's draft Route Utilisation Strategy (Great Western Region) has been prepared by Rob and Eric. It also appears that Keith Walton (Sevenside Community Partnership) will be responding separately to the RUS.

Action: Rob/ Eric will circulate their response to Committee before sending it to NR.

Rob also reported that he and Pip Sheard (TfGB) have been invited to speak with Network Rail at Swindon on 18th November – to tell them our thoughts on the draft RUS. Rob would probably give them a summary of the FOSBR response.

4. FOSBR's 'Save Our Train Service' campaign

About 2,000 postcards (of 3,000 printed) have been handed out so far. LibDem and Labour parties have taken some postcards to hand out to members. Julie gave a large postcard to the Chair of the WEP at the meeting on 12 November – and also handed out 300 postcards at the meeting.

5. West of England Partnership meeting on 12th November.

This was a very disappointing meeting with reference to the proposal for an Integrated Transport Authority. Rob has sent a report round to Committee members.

6. Feedback from meeting with Mark Bradshaw (Bristol CC)

Rob and Bernard met with him. He was very keen on the Filton Bank quadrupling and considered that this was the general consensus amongst Councils. He wants us to keep up our campaign on this issue.

7. Feedback from other meetings

(a) with Doug Naysmith and Kerry McCarthy (from Eric)

- * Both of them were keen on the Filton Bank quadrupling
- * They thought there was no point in MPs trying to force an Integrated Transport Authority on the region – because Councils have to work together
- * Doug Naysmith did not know about the Bristol Metro scheme but was interested
- * Kerry had been told by somebody that there was a gradient problem in relation to the quadrupling – but this is probably wrong

(b) with Jon Rogers (from Rob)

- * He discussed the future funding of the SB line – thought it likely that funding would continue beyond 2011 because it was election year
- * He was supportive of Shirehampton Park & Ride
- * Bristol CC might itself respond to the RUS

8. Potential meeting with MPs/ Prospective MPs

Nigel Bray outlined why he thought this could be a useful meeting. He, personally, would not be able to be involved – however Bruce Wilkinson (Railfuture Media spokesperson) might help and Railfuture might also help fund part of the cost. It was decided:

Venue: somewhere in Bristol Timing: a Friday night in early March

Invitees: MPs, prospective MPs, some Councillors (inc. Patchway Town Council), Travelwatch SW (Chris Irvine), Keith Walton, Somerset & Dorset Railway Soc., etc.

Possible format: Short presentations from FOSBR, TfGB, Railfuture setting out their priorities- followed by politicians' responses.

Action: Bernard and Tony to organise event. Eric to check out possible venues.

9. Lionel's activities

Lionel has distributed about 9,000 timetables (SB line and other local services) this year – but asked whether this was doing FOSBR any good. The answer is 'yes' as many people become interested when they can actually see the service that is available.

Action: Lionel will attend the Severn Beach Xmas Fair on Sat 28 November.

10. Campaign Priorities

After completion of the RUS response, then FOSBR should concentrate on:

- Redoubling of the line from Clifton Down to Montpellier
- Filton Bank quadrupling

11. Christmas Express flyer

Julie showed a draft flyer for the Christmas Express, but unfortunately no time to discuss. Julien Weston is organising this and we thought he should ensure that necessary permission is given.

Action: Julien to sort out permission from the Station Manager at Temple Meads and from FGW.

12. Date of Next Meeting

To be decided later.