

MINUTES OF MARPA AGM HELD ON 16th APRIL 2016 at 2pm at FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, ST JOHN'S STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS.

Present: About 15 including 6 committee members.

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies.

The Chairman welcomed the members and guests

Apologies: Roger Wolfe, Peter Feeney, Ross Taylor, Bryan Moss.

Leaflets on local railway matters were available on the table.

2. Talk by Philip Smart. Campaign Update on the Rail Franchise. Invitation to tender-Anglia Franchise. Ipswich Freight Cord now open.

Hendy Review/Anglia Route Study. Soham.

Railfuture campaigning: East Cambridge Transport Study, Cambridge City Deal, Easy stations, Reliability - 'Leafgate': Devolution.

Bidders: 1. Abellio 2. National Express 3. First.

A full report of the talk will be found at the end of this document

3. Questions & Answers. Philip Smart dealt with questions from the floor.

4. Minutes of the last AGM on 18th April 2015. These had been circulated and were agreed.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes. None.

6. Chairman's Report. This was circulated and agreed.

7. Treasurer's Report. He has not received the books from the previous Treasurer so cannot give the membership numbers or who has paid their subscription this year. There is £402 in the Bank and Bills to pay amount to £27. Last year we had 20/30 members.

There will be a better report next year. Question: What should be the renewal date? Some people suggested 1st January in future. The next committee meeting will discuss this.

8. Election of Chair. Mr Drake was proposed by Robin Edwards and seconded by Peter Hulbert. Passed unanimously.

9. Election of Officers and committee. Existing committee names were read, then nominated by Peter Hulbert and seconded by Adrian Romano.

10. Any other business including questions and discussions. Ticket machine on Newmarket station: print on tickets is blurred. Suffolk County Council – possible July Conference: Someone from the new Rail Franchise will be invited. Suffolk County Council invite user groups. Peter Wakefield proposed a vote of thanks to MARPA.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 1610.

## TALK BY PHILIP SMART - MARPA AGM 16 APRIL 2016

These topics were covered by Philip Smart:

East Anglian Rail Franchise: Hourly Ipswich to Peterborough. Semi-fast added Ipswich to Cambridge... Soham to be served by Ipswich to Peterborough trains. (Fulbourn, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge, Addenbrookes).

Felixstowe to Birmingham electrification. "Portion Working" South of Ely saves hourly....

Fast service to Cambridge. Norwich to Liverpool omits call at Ely to save four paths.. Business case based on freight.. Includes Newmarket to Cambridge.. Up to 20 DMU diagrams converted. between Ipswich and Birmingham..

Newmarket "West Curve" reinstated. Newmarket call on Ipswich to Birmingham.. Wisbech train direct Ely to Cambridge.. Soham and Newmarket served by Norwich.

DfT option - Anglia Franchise. Norwich to Cambridge extended to Haverhill.. Stopping service from Ipswich extended to Cambridge.. Possible DEMU/bi-mode option.

The Ely Solution Chart. Newmarket underperforms. Newmarket 285,062. Stowmarket 944,466.

Newmarket existing layout: 3 car platform. Newmarket double track option. (Both platforms available, up and down).

Ipswich platform capacity improvements. Ipswich - current and future demand. Ipswich station, photo of existing layout shown. Add platforms 5 and 6.

Freight: What next for freight in East Anglia? Freight chord protected in Ipswich local plan since 2001. Accepted as 'deliverable' by Network Rail in 2007 and plans published in 2009. Consent granted in September 2012. Opened for traffic in March 2014.. Finished by end of CP4. SFN - the Felixstowe branch.

Update.;

Partial doubling Felixstowe branch would give 45 train paths per day each way - only 42 will be used (18 via NLL, 24 via F2N). 1st phase in CP5, 2nd phase in....

Ely to Soham doubling. Network Rail 2015 public consultation. Bury loop? Bury St Edmunds (proposed) 1,000 m between - bridges....

East Anglia - Map of freight routes shown. plus table of freight loops between Felixstowe and Peterborough. West curve and doubling Cambridge to Newmarket. Second track between Cambridge to Newmarket. (based on similar distance).

Summary - Benefits.

Railfuture "Easy Stations" award scheme. Need to encourage disabled access.. Encourage

other improvements too.

Criteria List; Awards. Plaque. Railfuture. East Anglia. Easy Station. Siber Award. Station name. 2016.

Newmarket station improvements photo shown.

East - West Rail. Local Government interest in this since early 90s. East-West Rail Consortium met 21st January - evaluation of two corridors. 1. via Hitchin. 2. direct route Cambridge to Bedford. 8 Routes evaluated: 4 via Hitchin, 4 by direct route. Central options: Lines on maps. 4 options. Join at Addenbrookes.. Will be double track. Oxford to Cambridge about 80 minutes.

Greater Cambridge City Deal.: National investment £500 million matched by £500 million local funding.

Raifuture East Anglia. City Deal campaign. Rail enhancement for Cambridge. RF Future transport network chart shown.

Reliability: Public Performance Measure (Regional and Inter-City). Cancellation and significant lateness. (C & SL).

Mr Smart summed up with his conclusions on reliability.

Devolution: What is it? Another tier of local government? Another layer of bureaucracy? Break up of Central government? Why do we need a Mayor? Should he be the First Minister for East Anglia?

What is in it for rail? More likely to influence : Geographical alignment, franchise bids=regional, Network Rail devolution into regions, regional perspective.

Questions to the speaker on: Ely, Wisbech, Haverhill, East West Link.