

1066 Hastings to Tonbridge Line Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Friday 25th June 2021

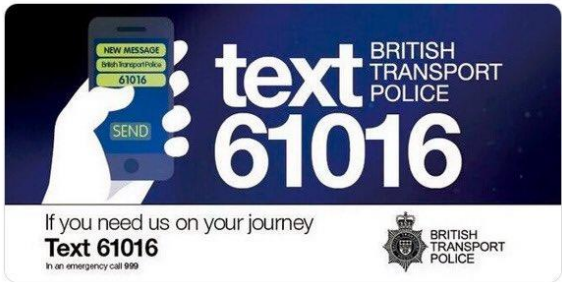
Meeting from 2.30-4pm

Remote Meeting via Zoom



AGENDA

1.	<p>Welcome from chair James Abbott:</p> <p>Attendees: James Abbott (SCRP Line Chair) Catherine Simmons (1066 Line Officer), Kevin Boorman (Hastings BC), Rachel Bennington (High Weald AONB), Matt Fraser (SER), Logan Smith (SER Marketing) Tim Barkley (SCRP Chair), Tim Sparrow (SCRP Director), Daniel Wright (Community Rail Network), Ann-Frances Luther (Frant PC), Ben Bolton (KCC), John Bownas (Love Hastings), Mark Dodds (Spa Valley Railway), Trevor Davis (Ore Station Partnership), Yolanda Laybourne (BRAG)</p> <p>Apologies: Kevin Boorman (Hastings BC), Paulette Barton (Etchingham PC), Steve Tooke (Stagecoach), Eleanor Hoyle (Tunbridge and Malling), Gardner Crawley (RVR), Jonnie Pay (Spa Valley Railway), Helen Kellar (Sustrans), Lauren Heap (SER), Fiona Morton (SCRP), Philip Ayers (SCRP), Greg Thompson (Network Rail)</p>	<p>James Abbott</p> <p>Chair</p>	<p>Action: LO to review membership and ensure good community representation. Steering group members to suggest potential new members</p>
2.	<p>SER Marketing- A return to rail (See attached presentation)</p> <p>For further information https://newsroom.southeasternrailway.co.uk/ and the returning to school safely video https://newsroom.southeasternrailway.co.uk/news/southeastern-releases-safety-video-ahead-of-schools-reopening</p> <p>Presentation to members including updates on recent marketing campaigns such as 'Make it a clean getaway', 'Breeze through the summer'. 'Back to work' and 'Rediscover Summer' Problems for rail companies with restricted travel and marketing allowed by DfT. New Flexi Season Ticket and Journey Planner introduced.</p> <p>Suggestions from community partners for promotional tickets and free/cheaper car parking to encourage passengers out of their cars and back to rail. Further car parking issues highlighted at Robertsbridge and Crowhurst where station car parks are empty, but passengers are parking in the surrounding roads causing congestion and making it dangerous for pedestrians. Query on whether this could be addressed by a change in the private car parking business model. Parishes affected by this issue should gather together written correspondence which could be used to build a case for potential improvements.</p>	<p>Logan Smith</p> <p>SE Marketing Team</p>	<p>Action: LO to assist SER with marketing through social media/SCRP website</p>
3.	<p>Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail- Impacts on Community Rail</p> <p>Discussion led by James Abbott and Daniel Wright (Community Rail Network)</p> <p><i>For more information:</i></p>	<p>James Abbott (SCRP)</p> <p>Daniel Wright (CRN)</p>	<p>Action: LO to keep members updated on progress on rail review detail as released</p>

	<p>https://communityrail.org.uk/williams-shapps-plan-for-rail-response/</p> <p>The review hopes to address historical issues with the separation of Train Operating Companies (TOC's for example Southeastern and Network Rail) Franchising no longer considered viable. New overarching body called Great British Railways (GBR) will be created encompassing the work of Network Rail and operations. Train operation will be contracted out to TOC's and GBR will set fares and control the railway.</p> <p>The government appears keen to include community rail with it being highlighted several times in the white review. Some difficulties to be expected in the short term with uncertainty in funding models. GBR is likely to operate in a similar way to London Overground with GBR carrying out marketing, promotions and ticketing and TOC's running the trains. There will be a change in relationship between community rail and the railway which should simplify it. Community Rail Network CEO meeting regularly with the DfT to discuss. GBR is likely to be based regionally, similar to Network Rail.</p>		
4.	<p>Community Updates from the 1066 Line:</p> <p>Tunbridge Wells- <i>Mark Dodds, Spa Valley Railway</i></p> <p>Meeting with James Abbott and Catherine Simmons at the railway with discussions regarding receiving passengers back to the railway, work completed at Eridge, issues with bridge strikes, encouraging visitors to come via the mainline at Tunbridge Wells.</p> <p>Frant- <i>Ann-Frances Luther, PC</i></p> <p>Meeting on site with Catherine Simmons highlighted potential projects with the Kent and East Sussex Poetry Society with displays and potentially oral recording by poets at the station. Maintenance needed on paint work around the station. Areas available for wildlife/planter gardening but work group needs sourcing. Would like to develop a book lending library in ticket office. Vacant section of the building could be put to community/business use.</p> <p>Robertsbridge- <i>Roger Palamarczuk, PC</i></p> <p>'Incredible Edible' planters placed at the station with tomato plants for community use. Ticket Office staff member Ross looking after new hanging baskets funded through SCRP. Collecting books in order to reopen lending library. PC would like to highlight to parish the BTP Text Service and Hollie Guard App. which is supported by police nationwide (https://hollieguard.com/). Both are aimed at helping people feel safe. BTP text service can be used to contact British Transport Police if passengers feel vulnerable or witness crime/suspicious activity on the railway.</p> 	All Members	<p>Action: LO to review current Spa Valley advertising at mainline station</p> <p>Action: LO to highlight painting needed. Discuss plans for vacant space with NR. Assist with poetry display</p>

	<p>St Leonards Warrior Square/Hastings- <i>John Bownas, Love Hastings</i></p> <p>Interested in ongoing wildlife gardening at St Leonards Warrior Square with Transition Town Hastings (interesting issue re ownership of paths) https://www.transitiontownhastings.org.uk/projects/community-garden/</p> <p>Meeting with Catherine Simmons and Network Rail looked at approach and route to town centre from the station which is currently potentially hazardous. Potential to improve with landscaping and better signage. Additional project with Love Hastings potentially within the station with window artwork project which would provide information to visitors, create a welcoming feel and block excessive sunlight coming into the ticket office which causes overheating.</p> <p>Bexhill Rail Action Group (BRAG)- <i>Yolanda Laybourne</i></p> <p>Would like to see rail company to be allowed to offer promotional tickets to encourage a return to rail.</p>		<p>Action: LO and Love Hastings to look at costings and funding sources for window art. Further discussions with NR/Hastings BC re access to town centre</p>
5.	<p>Line Officer Action Plan Review (see attached presentation)</p> <p>Review of proposed 1066 Line Map</p> <p>Comments received</p>	Catherine Simmons LO	<p>Action: Review circulated to stakeholders. Next review due Sept 2021</p> <p>Action: Any further amendments to be agreed with map designers then move project forwards to online interactive development</p>
6.	<p>Stakeholder updates</p> <p>Matthew Fraser SER Community Rail Manager (See attached report) link to Tonbridge Cycle Hub video https://vimeo.com/561818504</p> <p>Kent County Council- <i>Ben Bolton</i></p> <p>Awaiting funding news re Capability Fund to encourage more sustainable travel. Promoting Kent Connected Journey Planner https://kentconnected.org/ which is good for combining methods of transport. Working with Explore Kent to encourage visitors.</p> <p>High Weald AONB- <i>Rachel Bennington Education Officer</i></p> <p>Work underway to refresh High Weald walks ready for September Walks Festival. Walks mapping training provided for Catherine Simmons to map walks from stations encouraging use of public transport. Plans to carry out a Try a Train trip with school from Crowhurst down to Hastings for beach wildlife/Welly Walk and from Hastings school to Crowhurst for High Weald</p>	All stakeholders	<p>Action: LO and High Weald to identify and meet with potential</p>

	<p>Welly Walk. It is hoped restrictions will be eased sufficiently to allow this in the Autumn.</p> <p>Southeast Communities Rail Partnership- <i>Tim Sparrow, Director</i></p> <p>New SCRP Line Reading to Ashford including Windsor and Eton. Line officer appointed to begin in induction July.</p> <p>SCRP achieved reaccreditation with the DfT through the Community Rail Network, with thanks to hard work by staff and volunteer directors.</p>		schools in September.
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Next Meeting: TBC AGM/Stakeholder meeting week 20th September 2021</p> <p>We will hopefully be looking for venues to host our meetings along the line in the future if you might be able to offer a venue, please contact catherine@southeast.crp.org</p>		Action: LO and Line Chair to identify potential venue