

Castle Line News – June 2015

The new timetable provides, at Collingham, an hourly service to and from Lincoln, Newark, Nottingham, and Leicester; and at Newark an hourly service to and from Lincoln, Leicester, Derby, and Matlock and the twice-hourly service to and from Nottingham. (In addition, separate services link Collingham with Newark Northgate (NNG), Lincoln, and Grimsby in both directions). Nottinghamshire County Council and Network Rail will shortly undertake a timetable study to determine the feasibility of a twice-hourly service Lincoln – Collingham – Newark – Nottingham service.

Virgin East Coast are planning the introduction of additional direct Lincoln – Kings Cross services via NNG (although they will not stop at Collingham). Improved Lincoln/Collingham connections with the East Coast Main Line at NNG are also under consideration, as are improved Sunday services between Lincoln and Nottingham. The planned Swinderby – Collingham resignalling project should deliver faster journey times between Newark and Lincoln by 2018/2019.

Anecdotally, the new timetable appears to have generated increased passenger numbers and a formal passenger survey will be done this autumn. Significant residential development in communities along the line is expected to generate increased passenger traffic in future years, as will growth in tourism in Lincoln and Newark.

Work begins imminently on the listed building at Newark Castle (NCT); a new ticket office and toilets should open by late autumn this year and adjacent retail space will be put out to tender. Better waiting facilities on the eastbound platform at NCT are also on the drawing board.

Use of the Collingham car park is increasing. Statutory consultation over yellow-lining the surrounding roads has been completed. The work will be done in due course, and will reduce concern over the safety of all users – but especially pedestrians – of that stretch of Station Road affected by cars parked on the unpaved verges close to the car park.

Keith Burd