

1066 Hastings to Tonbridge Line Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Friday 24th June 2022

Meeting from 10.30-12.00

Remote Meeting via Teams



AGENDA

<p>1a</p>	<p>Welcome from SCRP Chair James Abbott</p> <p>Attendees: James Abbott (Line Chair), Catherine Simmons (1066 Line Officer), Matt Fraser (SER), Philip Ayers (SCRP Director) Kevin Boorman (Hastings BC), Trevor Davis (Rail Future), Cllr Alan Bullion (Southborough TC), Sonia Plato Howley (Crowhurst PC), Vikki Cook (Battle TC), Cllr Peter Lidstone (Tunbridge Wells/Cycling and Walking Champion), Anne Musker (Chair Tunbridge Wells and Area Access Group)</p> <p>Apologies: Yolanda Laybourne (Vice Line Chair/BRAG), Tim Barkley (SCRP Chair) Fiona Morton (SCRP CEO), Daniel Wright (Community Rail Network CRN), Roger Palamarczuk (Robertsbridge PC), Gardner Crawley (Rother Valley Railway), Mark Dodd (Spa Valley Railway), Cllr Ann Frances Luther (Frant PC), John Bownas (Love Hastings), Mary Clarke (Burwash CIC), Paulette Barton (Etchingham PC), Debbie Barton (KCC), Bea Rogers (Hastings Gardeners), Geoff Thomas (Crowhurst PC) Gerry Sherwin (High Weald AONB), Tessa Sweet Escott (ESCC), Chris Jeffrey (High Brooms)</p>		<p>Action: LO continually reviewing steering group membership. Three new members welcomed from High Brooms and Tunbridge Wells. Members asked to lead discussions during the meeting.</p>
<p>1b</p>	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting/actions arising</p> <p>Minutes agreed</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Three new members accepted invitations from High Brooms and Tunbridge Wells (with a focus on accessibility) 2. New station gardeners at High Brooms and Wadhurst encouraged to adopt 3. - CS to chase further potential joint working with NR Sustainability team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met with local Cllr and access group at High Brooms. Suggestions taken forward to SER Accessible Travel Advisory Panel - Give Poetry a Platform display currently being worked on - Awaiting final funding agreement from CRN for map. Local Cllr approached to support Rother DC funding bid. Awaiting meeting on site - Guided walk from Etchingham Station to Burwash with Burwash CIC agreed for High Weald AONB Walking Festival in September - Met with Battle TC re Station Masters House. Due to see best practice at Bat and Ball Station with Linda Larter Sevenoaks DC/Iona Heritage engagement officer /Sarah Newman Darent Valley CRP Officer 		<p>Action: CS to recontact Network Rail Sustainability Team re joint projects along the line</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Encouraging active and sustainable travel to the station-</p> <p><i>Cllr Peter Lidstone (Tunbridge Wells/Cycling and Walking Champion)</i></p> <p>Tunbridge Wells now has a borough partnership with a mix of groups represented. The joint transport board presents the suggested needs of the</p>		<p>Action: LO to attend meeting of Public Transport Forum</p>

	<p>area to Kent CC. The Public Transport Forum represents stakeholders in the local area and meets on a regular basis (SCRP invited to attend). Encouraged to see more cycle parking near stations (excellent hub at Tonbridge) Would like to encourage more rail passengers to travel actively to the stations. One of main reasons highlighted and agreed by members was the poor cycling and walking infrastructure in some areas surrounding the stations with concerns over road safety.</p> <p>Active Travel England is a £2 Billion fund which will be open to application by councils soon. Looking at new initiatives and infrastructure to assist active travel. Points raised re providing accessible transport choices for all. Good to see the promotion of walking and cycling to stations in the SCR P 1066 Line Action Plan. Invitation for line officer to attend Public Transport Forum (next meeting in July) which brings together bus/rail/SER/NR representatives.</p>		
3.	<p>Q&A</p> <p>Highlighted need for separated cycle routes (from cars and pedestrians), bikes carriages to prevent conflict with wheelchair users on trains</p>		
4.	<p>Accessibility on the 1066 Line</p> <p><i>Anne Musker (Chair - Tunbridge Wells Access Group)/ Cllr Alan Bullion Southborough</i></p> <p>Accessibility a huge issue along the line at many stations. Rail users would like to be able to independently access the line. Feedback from access group and local residents can be sent to Catherine Simmons to highlight at the SER Accessibility Advisory Panel which meets quarterly.</p> <p>High Brooms Station has been a focus for accessibility improvements. Supported by local MP Greg Clark. Now improvements look to be moving forward through the Access for All Scheme (and potentially at Battle/Wadhurst) with standard design of lift shafts/bridge potentially reasonably straightforward to install (leaving the existing footbridges/underpasses). For High Brooms this is estimated to be £5 (£750,000 was already available).</p> <p>Would like to encourage better bus/train linking such as that in Sevenoaks with Go Ahead which also helps improve accessibility.</p>		Action: LO to take suggestions forward to SER Accessible Advisory Panel
5.	<p>Q&A</p> <p>Members flagged up concerns re ticket office's closing and staff being redeployed which could mean less help is available for those with accessibility needs/personal safety. Potential issues with lifts breaking down- the emergency button in the lift alerts the nearest manned station.</p>		
6.	<p>Community Updates from the 1066 Line:</p> <p>Tonbridge- Great support from all staff over the jubilee weekend with cake sale raising a total of £517.55 for Macmillan Cancer Support.</p>	All Members	

<p>Tunbridge Wells- Great support from all staff over the jubilee weekend with cake sale and tombola raising £504.07 for the Ukraine Crisis Appeal.</p> <p>High Brooms- Alan Bullion Southborough TC See Above</p> <p>New history display pop up banner well received in the ticket hall created with kind assistance of Alan Bullion and Barry Crick. Would like to do a local history talk for Heritage Open Week in September.</p> <p>Additionally new station partner and line group member Chris Jeffrey would like to start gardening at the platform side. CS to arrange health and safety briefing with SM David Atkinson</p> <p>Long campaign to improve accessibility at the station. £750,000 originally earmarked for ramps but the gradient has proved too steep. The only other solution would be a lift, cost possibly prohibitive and station unmanned at times. SCRPs have put the station forward for the Access for All nomination process alongside Wadhurst and Battle. Would like to see electric car charging points at the station. Matt to flag up to George Paterson</p> <p>Frant-</p> <p>LO working on 'Give Poetry a Platform' display for ticket office</p> <p>over lights to direct beam downwards. Similar problems at Crowhurst.</p> <p>Wadhurst-</p> <p>New gardening station partner has come forward after seeing signs asking for volunteers at the station placed by LO. Awaiting health and safety meeting with station manager Lee Malcolm before starting.</p> <p>Burwash CIC/Etchingham-</p> <p>Planning guided walk from Etchingham station to Burwash as part of the High Weald AONB Walking Festival in September</p> <p>Battle- <i>Cllr Vikki Cook</i></p> <p>Highlighted the fantastic work of Jamie in the ticket office going above and beyond his role. Would like to put him forward for SER commendation. Battle Town councillors to visit Bat and Ball Station community hub and café to gather information from Sevenoaks TC re potential for renovations and community use of Battle Station Masters House.</p> <p>Crowhurst- <i>Sonia Plato Howley PC</i></p> <p>Concerns re ticket office closure this is already a limited service.</p> <p>Walking and local amenities/attractions map planned currently finalising funding sources.</p> <p>High Weald AONB Dark Skies Celebration 20-26th February 2023. With pop up planetarium at Battle Abbey and free talks around the High Weald coordinated by Sam Nicolas High Weald Officer. At Crowhurst some issues with accessibility on access road and bright lights at the station disturbing wildlife is a way of reflecting these downwards/putting in motion detectors. Highlighted as an area of concern on Crowhurst Parish plan. Potential for</p>		<p>Action: Matt Fraser to find out more information on electric car charging points</p> <p>Action: LO to assist with poetry display at Frant</p> <p>Action: LO to book date with CIC for guided walk and coordinate with SER marketing team. Link Burwash CIC and Etchingham</p> <p>Action: LO to continue with funding applications for map</p>
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	<p>joint SCRIP/High Weald AONB/RSPB funding bid to improve accessibility from station road to adjoining footpaths.</p> <p>Would like more information on solar farms and potential for community energy.</p> <p>West St Leonards- Potential for project work with St Leonards Secondary Academy being investigated. Students regularly use the station.</p> <p>St Leonards Warrior Square- Works progressing on footbridge. Long diversion in place but work being completed overnight to minimise disruption.</p> <p>Hastings- Great support from all staff over the jubilee weekend with cake sale and tombola raising a total of £327.86 for the local RNLI.</p> <p>Planning with Sue Millar member of local women's artist group Ruddy Cheek re potential arts project to display on the line along the theme of sustainability.</p>		
7.	<p>Stakeholder updates</p> <p>Matthew Fraser SER Community Rail Manager -Cordial relationship maintained during recent strike days. Two weeks' notice for strikes required.</p> <p>Rail future Trevor Davies-Support Access for All bids for stations along the line. Highlighted potential issues with some passengers and the removal of paper tickets and timetables.</p> <p>Tonbridge and Malling BC Bartholomew Wren- Currently preparing the borough plan and looking at integrating sustainable travel. New large development between Tunbridge Wells and Paddock Wood (5000 houses) which will be built on the line but with no current plans for a new station as others are in close proximity.</p> <p>Hastings BC Kevin Boorman- Leadership change hopes to support more sustainable active travel. Concern over how local events might be affected by rail strike days as with the recent Fish Festival as the council would like to actively promote rail travel.</p>	All stakeholders	
8.	<p>Line Officer Action Plan Progress Review (see attached presentation for 2022-23 1066 Line Action Plan Q1 update)</p>	Catherine Simmons LO	
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Next Meeting: 1066 Line Steering group meeting Friday 23rd September 10.30-12.00 at Tonbridge Castle. Please do contact catherine@southeastcrp.org if you have any suggested topics or themes you would like to hear more about.</p>		

