

THE EAST SURREY TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Notes from East Surrey Transport Committee Meeting with Zoom Meeting 6.00pm Wednesday 9th March 2022

The meeting started at 18:05.

The Chairman welcomed those that were able to log on, others would be able to join as and when they could.

1. **Welcome:** to Representative from GTR and those members that were able to log on.
2. **Apologies:** As listed.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Accepted
4. **Matters arising from minutes:** None

5. **February 2022 and May 2022 timetables:**

Overview

Changes on 21 February 2022 for Brighton line works had been scheduled for over a year. This had an impact on trains on Brighton line. New timetable was from 28th February 2022. Due to Omicron the Christmas timetable was rolled over into January. Current timetable will last until mid-May. May will be roughly the same as last September with some tweaks being made. In general, there are some staffing issues, however, demand is currently 60% of pre-Covid demand. Funding is also an important issue going forward as it is from the Government who are responsible for fares revenue.

Two Milton Keynes peak services have been restored, not sure about full service yet.

East Surrey Transport Committee has issues with the following services:

- **Restoration of 2 off-peak trains per hour East Grinstead**

No specific plan for this although train planning currently looking at some additional services possibly in the evening.

- **Restoration of Thameslink East Grinstead**

No Thameslink service again currently. It would be good if the morning and evening trains could run as before. Some peak London Bridge services would potentially increase usage, based on experience in January. Train planning currently looking at some additional services in peak.

- **Restoration of Caterham and Tattenham Corner to Victoria peak services**

Caterham to London Bridge fully restored

Currently no Victoria service. It would be good to restore the stops at Norwood Junction to connect with the Overground. Yvonne would take this back to train planning.

- **Restoration of 4 trains per hour off-peak at South Croydon, Purley Oaks, Reedham and Coulsdon Town**

There are no current plans for this at present.

- **Restoration of Gatwick - Bedford peak hour stops at Coulsdon South and Merstham.**

THE EAST SURREY TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

When the Bedford peak services stopped it was very helpful in reviving the overcrowding on Peterborough trains which had 300 joining at the busiest trains. The stops can't be provided in the current base timetable which is based on a Saturday, but should be restored in May.

Restoration of Gatwick Express

The committee were still of the view that the Gatwick Express should call at Clapham Junction. Representative from GTR said that the services would be restored to broadly coincide with the south terminal at Gatwick opening. *{Post Meeting Note: Gatwick Express services started on 3 April}.*

6. **Other timetable issues:**

- **Stopping of Caterham and Tattenham Corner services at Norwood Junction initially when Crystal Place play and permanently in the future**

No specific plan currently

- **Restoration of through service from Clapham Junction to Brighton.**

No specific plan currently

- **Timetables during engineering works**

Timetables seem to be very variable so difficult to identify trains to catch when sometimes they were reduced to hourly or had two trains per hour that ran a few minutes apart. Representative from GTR would take this back to train planning.

7. **Information and alternative services at times of disruption:**

Jim again raised the poor information was provided on both NRES and at East Croydon, that when trains were delayed or cancelled alternative service to nearby stations could be used i.e., Purley Oaks instead of Sanderstead and Whyteleafe instead of Upper Warlingham. Yet often there was no alternative service information at East Croydon when services are affected.

8. **Ticketing:**

- **Oyster to Reigate**

No plans currently. Retail strategy will depend on new contract from the 1st April 2022

9. **Car Parking issues: Date to be confirmed as Monday 28th March with Andy Liddell to discuss the following :**

- Differential charging late afternoon.
- Additional car parking bays at Coulsdon South
- Caterham distribution of rail and Waitrose shopping spaces.
- Poor condition of Upper Warlingham car park which looks very run down and dirty paint
- Purley Oaks and Chipstead. Over pricing causing car parks now under used.
- Differential pricing with a much lower price after 4.00pm weekdays and Saturday and Sunday.

THE EAST SURREY TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

10. Next rounds of access for all:

- **South Croydon has now been agreed**
No start date from Network rail, still in the design stage
- **Upper Warlingham is East Surrey Transport Committee nomination for next round.** Yvonne said that the deadline was middle of April. GTR would like feedback from stakeholders by the end of March 2022.
- Lack of Victoria services on Caterham line could support the case and lift issues at East Croydon.
- AF raised the issue of Hurst Green platform on the downside had step free access to the car park, but the adjacent road had no footpath and it also was quite narrow for people with disabilities. As the road was not owned by the railway it was between Tandridge and Surrey County Council. Even small lift between the road bridge and the platform would be very expensive.
- **Other matters**
Chairman said that at Coulsdon South, we had asked if the 4 car stop board on the down platform could be moved so that 4 car trains stop nearer the lift. This could not be done while 455 stock was in use. *{Post Meeting Note: That GTR have now announced that 455 stock would be withdrawn at in May}.*

12. Bus matters:

- **Report on proposed changes to Bus services in Croydon and Sutton**
- **Sutton and Croydon Bus changes** on hold until TfL agree on future funding. Next round of talks are in June. Chairman has made some suggestions of a way forward to NG who hopes to arrange a meeting with TfL They have accepted that the 443 needs to serve Central Croydon.
- 433 flagged in at the Fairfield Halls stop in Park Lane Croydon.
- Bus shelter at Downlands precinct was replaced, but without the countdown sign. TfL have said it will be restored in due course.
- The Velo contract with Croydon, no new shelters have appeared so far. It is hoped they will start appearing in the new financial year.

Yvonne left the meeting at this point.

13. Committee Matters:

- **Confirmed the bank account now moved to Metro Bank**
New bank account set up and fund in the process of being transferred.

14. Any other business (AOB): None

15. Date next and future meetings:

- **Next meeting would be the special car park meeting 6.00pm on Monday 28th March 22 by zoom**
- **Date of the next ordinary meeting**
Wednesday 11th May 2022 AGM. TBC

Meeting finished at 19:25 pm.