

Councillor: Graham Parker

Body:

ESLCRP

Report Date: Friday 2nd September 2022

<p>Meetings attended and dates</p>	<p>ESLRP Meeting on the 2nd September 2022 Attendees Trevor Garrod, Tim Miller, Glynn Buck, Colin Butler, Graham Parker, Netta Swallow; Apologies for Absence - Val Rutterford, Ken Lodge. Jacqui Dale, Martin Halliday.</p>
<p>Key issues discussed at the meeting(s) (relevant to LTC and its constituents)</p>	<p>1. The Chair opened the meeting at 10.30.</p> <p>2. The minutes of the meeting on May 25th were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>3, Matters Arising - Minute 3: TG had delivered a letter to Oulton Broad Parish Council, through their letter box. No reply. No further action would be taken.</p> <p>4. Station Reports-</p> <p>Halesworth - no report received. We were not aware of any problems.</p> <p>Brampton - The lighting was functioning properly; the station adopter had received garden vouchers; the car park needed to be extended, ideally using Network Rail land to the north of the present one. This will be referred to the CRP Board for its work programme.</p> <p>Beccles - The Broads Authority board had been vandalised and removed. It should be the responsibility of the ESLCRP to negotiation replacement / repair with the Broad Authority and TM would obtain the name of the relevant Broads Authority officer.</p> <p>The station ought to have an interpretation panel explaining its history. Netta would contact Barry Darch, Town Mayor and local historian, for his input. Line Group North was willing to at least part-fund this and it should go into the CRP Work Programme.</p>

There was a case for moving the "Welcome to Beccles" board to a more visible position. Line Group North was willing to fund this work, which should also go into the work programme.

Oulton Broad South - Claire Kendall had started discussions with Suffolk Wildlife Trust about an interpretation panel, before she resigned. No further progress had been reported. CB would ask Lauren Elliott of Lowestoft Town Council for up-to-date costings. Ideally there should be two boards - one giving details of Carlton Marshes including a simple map; and one giving the history of the station and its surrounding area. Line Group North is willing to part fund this project.

There was no report of any progress on the direct and level access for pedestrians and cyclists to the platform since our last meeting. However, CB had attended a meeting the previous day called by Cycling UK. Nik Hughes (who was seconded to SCC for one year by Cycling UK) was looking for ideas to improve cycling provision. TG would write to him mentioning this project. CB had also prepared a report for LTC.

Lowestoft - Members were aware of the wide-ranging promotional work that had been done by the Wherry Lines CRP and Lowestoft Central Project at the station over the past three months and its role in the forthcoming Heritage Open Days. If the Lowestoft Central Project needed financial help from LGN in the coming months, they were welcome to approach us and we would consider it.

There was detailed discussion of the consultants' report to ESC on the future of the "Refreshments Building". It was agreed that TG should draft comments, based on our discussion, circulate it to others present and submit it to ESC before their deadline. We welcome the initiative of the Council in funding refurbishment of the building, but have concerns about aspects of the proposal and consider that much more thought must be given to the options. If the plan goes ahead, it has to have a sympathetic aesthetic appearance.

5. Actions to promote rail usage - TG had circulated a list of cycle shops originally obtained from Claire Kendall. Members would check on shops within the LGN area (including Somerleyton Cycles). TM would ask Michael's Cycles if they did cycle hire. CB would check with Dunx Bikes, who had been at the Cycling UK meeting. It was assumed that Line Group South and Line Group East would make similar enquiries in their areas.

It was noted that CRPs had funded printed timetables for the East Suffolk, Wherry and Bittern Lines, which was very welcome. It was understood that copies of these would also shortly be on display at Liverpool Street. The ESTA "Discover" leaflets relating to the LGN area had been widely distributed and the "Lowestoft & Oulton Broad" leaflet was being reprinted to cope with demand.

	<p>6, Bus/rail co-ordination - TG reported that the Bus Recovery Grant had been extended till March 31st. There needs to be more long-term funding, however. In his ESTA capacity he had also met Andrew Bramwell of SCC to discuss bus/train co-ordination and attended the recent SCC Rural Transport Conversation in Kesgrave. GP reported on the studies of LTC's Climate Change Committee for a town minibuss service between the station and Belle Vue Park. CB had also attended a zoom meeting of SCC's Passenger Interest Group. GP is preparing a submission for Climate Change Committee to consider at the November Meeting..</p> <p>7. CRP Board Report - It was understood that a new paid officer had been appointed. We looked forward to working with this officer. Moves were afoot to revive Line Goup South which had not met since 2020.</p> <p>It was assumed that Sizewell C would now be a standard item on CRP Board meetings, following the latest Government announcement. The CRP should take every opportunity to press for construction traffic to go by rail, without reducing the passenger service.</p> <p>8. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.55.</p>
<p>Any actions required by LTC?</p>	<p>Councillor Parker to prepare a paper to the November Climate Change committee to consider supporting a proposed Bus service through the Town Centre from Lowestoft Station to the south end of Belle Vue Park.</p>
<p>Signed: Graham Parker</p>	<p>Date: 8th October 2022</p>