

Subject: Radcliffe on Trent Rail meeting 18th February 2019

Date: 22 February 2019 at 07:28

Please accept my report on the recent Trains Working Group I attended as a representative of Bingham Town Council.

Radcliffe on Trent Trains Working Group meeting 10.30am 18th February 2019

The outcomes I reported as being of most interest to Bingham Town Council from the previous meeting in October 2018 are;

- 1. There will be another meeting in late November, hopefully all partners will attend.*
- 2. Bingham Town Council could consider promoting the Adopt-a-Station scheme again.*
- 3. The future meeting with East Midlands Council to lobby for Poacherline service improvements is still proposed.*
- 4. I have asked Ms. Robinson for the usage figures she referred to, but she stated that she may not be able to share the details publicly.*

The February meeting is the meeting following the October meeting. Mr. MacQuarrie from the Department of Transport will be meeting with East Midlands Council soon to discuss stakeholder involvement and Ms. Robinson was not able to share the usage figures with me.

Since the previous Train Working Group the Access for All grant applications for accessibility improvements at stations had been submitted and it was announced by Laura Etheridge of East Midlands Trains that bids for Bingham and Radcliffe had been shortlisted with the outcome of the process to be announced by the end of April 2019.

There was an effort to improve the lighting at RoT station as it was felt if two lighting columns had lights on two sides it would illuminate both the station and the car park.

The group was updated on the East Midlands franchise extension, meaning that the East Midlands Trains would continue to operate the Poacher line until August 2019. Any decision to extend this extension was required by April and would be for a maximum of 24 weeks.

Mr. MacQuarrie understood that a further extension was not likely as the tender process for the next long-term contract was due to be announcing a preferred bidder in April. After the announcement there is a ten day pause while the non-successful bidders may challenge the decision. Following the pause, contracts would be signed, and the new trains operator would begin their mobilisation plans for them to be ready to run services in August 2019.

Although there were no specific Poacher line improvements in the franchise extension, it was noted that East Midlands Trains delivery statistics were very good.

For the rest of the meeting there was a more ranging discussion about rail-related issues. Some issues raised related to the well-received community rail project with

RoT schools to produce a mosaic for the RoT station, whether the Poacher line might benefit from on-station ticket machines and the continuing view of group members that train users not purchasing tickets negatively impacted on the station usage statistics.

It was stated that planning proposals for RoT could see 920 to 1000+ homes being built around the village. This led to some discussion as to whether the previously agreed rail strategy, which is based on the previous figure of a minimum of 400 new homes at RoT, needed to be updated to reflect the increases in development. Representatives from Bottesford indicated that 475 homes would be built at that village, which is greater than the 420 figure used in the rail strategy. Considering these changes, the group felt the Rushcliffe Strategic Growth Board should look to review the rail strategy.

The group would be changing because some elected members would not be standing again. It was agreed that a letter would be written to all parishes along the Poacher line between Nottingham and Grantham asking them to continue their support and participation in the stakeholder group for the shared objective of increased trains on the line.

Another meeting is to be planned for April/May 2019.

The outcomes of the meeting most relevant to Bingham Town Council are;

1. The Access for All bid for Bingham station is shortlisted and an announcement is due this April on whether it is successful
2. The group continues to campaign for increased trains on the Poacher line by updating the evidence base for more trains and by working with all parishes along the line to campaign together.

Sincerely,

John Stockwood