

Russell Darling

From: RAGES Information <information@rages.org.uk>
Sent: 12 September 2021 12:38
To: Russell
Subject: RAGES Electronic News 463

Dear Russell,

The past two weeks have been quite exceptional for RAGES. The good news has just kept coming in, which is very gratifying for all the work that has gone in recently and over many years to achieve our aims.

RAGES were informed, along with other stakeholders, on 25th August that the LNER Proposed May 2022 Timetable had been postponed. This news means that all the services that were to be cut to stations in our area have now been avoided and a 'normal' timetable will resume. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our members and our politicians who fought to have this proposed timetable postponed. Had this not come about the next item would not have been possible.

Following hot on the heels of LNER's announcement, TransPennine Express (TPE) wrote with the much welcome news that they will provide five new services per weekday in each direction from the December 2021 timetable change. These Edinburgh/Newcastle trains will call at Berwick, Reston, Dunbar (four northbound, five southbound), and East Linton when it opens. An additional two Edinburgh to Berwick services will be introduced at the May 2022 timetable change. These trains will call at Reston and East Linton.

On Tuesday 7th September, we were informed of the terrific news that East Lothian Council had approved the Planning Application for East Linton station. This is a hugely important milestone in the group's aims. RAGES are keen to see Network Rail's contractor, BAM Nuttall, getting on site in the coming weeks, such that this important transport link can be operational in the later part of 2022.

In response to an e-mail from Tom Thorburn, RAGES President, to the Minister for Transport, he has received a reply from Transport Scotland.

Within the letter were these two paragraphs of note:

"Service levels at Dunbar are expected to be the same overall as the pre-Covid timetable and I can confirm that provision for future calls at East Linton (when open) has been included in the specification for the May 22 timetable.

"The strategic review is to commence in autumn with a view to coming up with an ideal service pattern between Edinburgh and Newcastle for May 23. This will again involve all operators, funders and Network Rail."

Kind regards,

Tom Dickson
RAGES Membership Secretary

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