

Russell Darling

From: RAGES Information <information@rages.org.uk>
Sent: 04 December 2021 19:19
To: Russell
Subject: RAGES Electronic News 467

Dear Russell,

There are two developments being announced in this newsletter:

- East Linton station construction gets underway
- New TransPennine Express services for the Scottish Borders and the Lothians

PREPARATORY WORK BEGINS ON EAST LINTON STATION DEVELOPMENT

RAGES is delighted to have received an update from Network Rail on the development of East Linton station.

They advise that preparatory work ahead of the construction of the new station gets underway on site this week.

In advance of this, they have circulated a letter to the local community to advise and to highlight contact information should they have any comments or questions about the work.

Network Rail are currently awaiting a final construction programme for the project and will announce an intended completion date for the project as soon as possible.

Information and updates will be posted on the East Linton pages of the Scotland's Railway web site - <https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects/east-linton-station> and they will respond to any questions from members of the public received via online submission or to the project's email address - eastlintonstation@networkrail.co.uk

The letter to the local community notes the following.

Early activity at the East Linton site will include the creation of an access road and compound for the vehicles associated with these works. They will also clear and level the ground, meaning they will be taking material from site. This will mean large vehicles running back and forward from the site.

They have worked with their contractors to establish the safest and most appropriate routes for these vehicles. The route for construction traffic on the south side will be through the Mart off the B1407 and they will try to avoid peak periods where possible.

The main body of work will be carried out during dayshift, Monday to Sunday between the hours of 07:00 and 18:00.

Throughout the project they will also be working nights from 18:00 to 06:00 to carry out work safely when in close proximity to the railway.

Nightshift working will also be required at weekends Saturday nights (21:00-09:00) and Sunday nights (22:00-06:00). There will also be nightshift work on Monday and Tuesday nights every third week, from 14th December 22:00 to 06:00 hours.

Various types of machinery will be used throughout the project. This will include excavators, rail plant, rollers, wagons, and generators on site during this time.

Access for rail plant will be from the official rail access point at 1 station yard.

The equipment they use means that some noise is unavoidable, but they will do all they can to minimise it. They also require those working on site to work with consideration for the local community.

NEW TRANSPENNINE EXPRESS SERVICES

With the 12 December 2021 timetable change TransPennine Express will be introducing a small number of timetable changes as they take a further step towards re-introducing pre-COVID services and launching an enhanced service between Edinburgh and Newcastle.

- They will increase services from the current two per day to five services per day with four on Sundays. These will focus on intermediate local connectivity for Northumberland, Scottish Borders, and the Lothians.
- Trains will call at Cramlington, Morpeth, Alnmouth, Berwick, Reston† and Dunbar.

† Reston will be converted to a public call once a confirmed opening date is announced.
East Linton will be included when the station is re-opened.

These trains will serve new to rail markets in the Scottish Borders and provide inter-Northumberland connectivity as well as linking these areas directly between each other and to Edinburgh and Newcastle.

To launch the services, TPE are offering discounted advance purchase tickets.

Some example fares are as follows: however, you can find more great offers by using the following link: www.tpexpress.co.uk/special-offers/half-price-offer-on-new-destinations

- Standard Single Dunbar – Berwick-upon-Tweed £6.20
- Standard Single Edinburgh – Berwick-upon-Tweed £6.70

Construction at Reston station is progressing well and RAGES looks forward to its opening early next year.

Kind regards,

Tom Dickson
RAGES Membership Secretary

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