

## **RAGES Committee Meeting**

9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Attended:** Max Eaves, Tom Dickson, Barrie Forrest, Ian Bowman, Glenn Moulding, Stewart Leslie

**Apologies:** Tom Thorburn, Harald Vox, Allison Cosgrove

Meeting started at 1700

- Barrie opens up the meeting and welcomes everyone. Apologies were given.
- Minutes of the previous meeting: Barrie asked if everyone was happy with both the minutes of the last committee meeting and of the AGM meeting. All confirmed they were happy.

### Station Reports

#### *Berwick-upon-Tweed*

- Barrie confirmed that after discussions with LNER, that the Ticket Office opening hours will be cut. There will still be platform and station staff available with the view to assisting customers who want to purchase tickets.
- Barrie stated that the car park is now filling back up to pre-COVID levels.

#### *Dunbar*

- Barrie and Tom D confirmed that Dunbar station is getting 'back-to-normal' in terms of patronage. Lots of people using the train.

#### *East Linton*

- BAM Nuttall have now made a start to the site works. Entrance will be around the 'mart site'.
- Site offices will be effected after Christmas.

#### *North Berwick*

- No Reports

#### *Reston*

- The stairs have now been installed in the last three days. BAM Nuttall worked on Sunday night through to Tuesday night to complete these works.
- There is lots of standing water on the north-side of the station. Concern over structural issues around the sacrificial banking [assuming after discussions with Project Manager]
- Project Manager has confirmed that Road-way to be completed by the end of the week (week ending Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021.)
- Barrie spoke to Mark Rowley about who would be opening the station.
- Barrie stated that he would like a member of royalty and other dignitaries to open the station
- Discussions with Catherine Hall about *when* the station would be open.

## *Haddington*

- Stewart mentioned that there would be a stall at the next Farmers Market to promote RAGES. There was also discussion about Liability Insurance (Ian Bowman.) The operators of the Farmers Market wanted to see RAGES liability insurance certificate. This is held by BAVS; East Lothian council are not interested in the groups liability insurance.
- Lothian Buses have just added 8 minutes to schedule of the X7 Dunbar Express bus service between Haddington and Edinburgh.
- Lothian Buses also have a driver retention issue at the moment with many drivers leaving for better paid/conditions. This is effecting the operations of the X7 and other East Coast bus services to/from Haddington.
- Barrie met up with David Horne, MD at LNER to discuss capacity on the ECML. He asked whether LNER would be trying again to 'crowd-out' the capacity on the line; David assured Barrie this would not be happening and there would be enough capacity for other operators.

## RAGES AGM 2021

- Barrie expressed his thanks to the committee and members of RAGES for their attendance at the meeting at Reston Village Hall.
- Barrie proposed Celebration Parties for the opening of Reston Station and East Linton Stations. He suggested inviting dignitaries, councillors and other noted individuals to the celebrations.
- **Action** – Max to write to BAVS and Transport Scotland in regards to confirming the installation of Electric Car-charging points and for E-Bikes.

## Membership

- As of 08/12/2021, RAGES has 210 members and one new additional corporate member [Tweed Valley Railway Group].
- It was noted that one of the founding members of RAGES sadly recently passed away.

## Treasury

- Ian Bowman reported that the current balance of the RAGES bank account sits at £1794.58 – with there still being an £18 cheque to be credited to the account.
- Following on from the AGM where (Max) asked about costs of printing the RAGES RAG and AGM notices, Ian has broken-down the costs:
  - 275 printed copies of Issue 77 of the RAGES RAG at £99.34
  - 250 AGM notices at £39.85
  - The issue was raised as the costs of annual printing looked as though they used a lot of financial resource. Ian noted that there are options for delivery electronically and reduce printing if possible, but there was enough funds in the bank account to continue printing as currently.
- Railfuture membership renewal forms being printed [they are delayed] and RAGES membership of Railfuture will be renewed for 2022.

## Correspondence

Tom T wrote/mailed to Ben Garratt at LNER to ask if could look at getting the 2200 Friday-Only Edinburgh to Newcastle service to make a call at Reston. Ben suggested contacting Malcolm Knight at LNER to discuss the timetabling.

**Action** – Max has now emailed to Malcolm Knight [copied in committee] in regards to this and we await a response.

**Action** – Max to write to Transport Scotland to ask for an update on the following areas:

- Updates on renewing Portobello Junction.
- Duelling of Calton Tunnels
- Four-Tracking between Edinburgh Waverley and Drem
- To understand TS's position on Capacity Improvements at Edinburgh Waverley after the cancellation of HS2 East section.
- An update on retail space at Edinburgh Waverley Station.

## Constitution

- Tom T / Ian B / Stewart L / Tom D are together drafting up a new constitution.
- Gaps in the rules and regulation of policy have been filled.
- This also includes a review of the whole constitution – effectively a spring-clean to make it more relevant.

## Next RAG

- Content is being collected for the next RAG which will be scheduled to be published in March 2022 – along with the renewals for next year.

## AOCB

*Membership* – discussions around meeting up with the chair of the Tweed Valley Rail Group to discuss what who they are and what they are looking to achieve. There was real concern that some of their proposals may not be achievable, but wanted to discuss their proposals and find common-ground and work together if possible.

*Class 314 Hydrogen Train* – on trial at the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway. Members to keep a keen eye on this as results would feed into ScotRail's 'post-diesel' operational position. Discussions about how this could effect services to the soon-to-be-reopened Leven Branch.

*Website and Email* – The current website is operating without any issues, but there are still concerns about the email contact and membership management system. The integration between the membership and email system is still problematic and it has been hard to maintain communication with the system author. They have now reappeared and it is hoped that the resultant niggles will be worked out as soon as possible.

## Next Meeting

To be confirmed (by those attending the Christmas Lunch.)