

RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

RAGES Committee Meeting

20th. April 2022, 1pm, East Linton Community Hall

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Barrie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Attended: Barrie Forrest BEM; Stewart Leslie, Tom Dickson, Tom Thorburn, Harald Vox.

Apologies: Ian Bowman, Allison Cosgrove, Glenn Moulding.

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 2nd. February 2022

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes.

It was suggested and agreed to add the following names to the list of possible invitees as listed in Appendix A – Mr & Mrs R Darling, Bill Reeve transport Scotland, Rev. William Paterson. Please note that the list in Appendix A has now been superseded by a spreadsheet and will no longer be updated if other names are nominated.

4. Station Reports

- Berwick

Tom T, Barrie & Tom D met Graham Meiklejohn TPE at Berwick on 19/04/2022, See correspondence and meetings section for update.

Barrie reported that both the car park and station are busy.

Concern was expressed about the new ticket office opening hours weekdays 7am to 2pm, Saturdays 8am to 3pm, Sundays 09.30am to 3pm. Will continue to monitor this going forward on how it impacts people using the ticket office.

- Dunbar

Car park was reported as being busy and also passenger usage looks more like normal. The delay in progressing with the car park extension is due to issues regarding the drainage underneath the car park. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to determine where the car park drainage connects to the main system. Until this is resolved the car park extension will remain on hold.

The station compound is being used to store pre-cast concrete platform sections for East Linton.

Tom D reported on the ticket price discrepancy for journeys from Dunbar to Edinburgh and from Dunbar to Berwick upon Tweed. The Dunbar to Berwick fares is very high compared to a similar journey distance/time to Edinburgh from Dunbar. This issue will be raised with Graham Meiklejohn TPE.

RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

- East Linton & Markle

Piling work for the foundations of the new platforms continues. The site is clean and tidy. Platform 1 embankment has now been fenced off and a temporary access road has been created which connects to School Road.

No progress with the Markle Level Crossing work, there doesn't seem to be a planning application submitted for this work yet. The link below will give you an update on the project.

[Introduction to the project and why it is being considered | Markle Level Crossing Replacement Project | East Lothian Council](#)

- Haddington

RAGES is now in possession of a street permit for Haddington Farmers Market. Tom T, Barrie, Ian, and Tom D attended the market on Saturday 26th. March. The day was deemed a success with a lot of interest shown in our stall. It has been agreed to purchase a gazebo for use at the market and other events.

Action: Stewart to write to local councillors to gauge level of support for a new station at Haddington.

Post meeting update – action complete.

- North Berwick & Drem

Harald reported that there is on average 25/30 cars using Drem car park. The car park capacity is 68.

Harald also reported that there can be waiting times up to 50 minutes between train and bus times, this could be a reason for lack of usage of the station.

Action: Tom D to send out Haddington to North Berwick bus timetable to group to allow correlation of train times and bus times at Drem.

Post meeting update – action complete, see link below to timetable.

[PowerPoint Presentation \(eveinfo.co.uk\)](#)

- Reston

Construction work is ongoing, but it is now clearly obvious that the station is very close to completion. The entering into service date is 23/05/2022. As part of the site being returned to as found condition the site offices are being relocated closer to the main site entrance.

There are plans to involve the local primary school children on the day. Proposed plans are for to take the children on the train to Edinburgh and to do something in Princes Street gardens before heading back to Reston. Prior to this BTP plan to visit the school. These arrangements are being organised by TPE and Network Rail.

Some members of the committee have indicated that they intend to get the first TPE train south to Reston, briefly alight at Reston and then board again to travel to

RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

Berwick upon Tweed, grab a coffee and then board the first northbound LNER service that will stop at Reston.

5. Membership Report.

Tom D reported that RAGES has 212 members.

We have now paid for an annual subscription for sending out bulk emails with Moosend. This is due to the bulk emailer in the new software being unreliable. It is the intention that when the membership software license is due for renewal in October that we will then revert back to our old membership software due to the number of issues with the new software.

Russell has worked away in the background setting up Moosend for RAGES and in the near future I will then take over the bulk email job from Russell.

Russell has mentioned that we should be thinking of taking responsibility and management of the RAGES website and email server over the next 2 years.

6. Treasurers Report.

Ian reported by email the treasurers report. See below his email.

The current balance is £1899.25 at the time of writing (19/04/2022).



March treasures
report.pdf

7. Correspondence & Meetings Attended

04/03/2022 Zoom meeting with Paul McLennan. Attendees: Tom T, Barrie, Stewart, Tom D.

Purpose of the meeting was for Paul to provide the group with an update on Haddington.

29/03/2022 Zoom meeting with SBC.

Attendees: Graeme Johnstone SBC, David Parker SBC, Mark Rowley SBC, Barrie, Tom T, Tom D.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the enter into service arrangements for Reston, as well as the official opening of the station arrangements.

29/03/2022 Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Sustainable Transport.

Attendees: Tom D.

The group received a presentation from Bruce Whyte Glasgow centre for Population Health.

11/04/2022 Barrie & Tom D met up with Allan Brooking Network Rail to discuss the arrangements for 23/05/2022.

RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

19/04/2022 Tom T, Barrie, Tom D, met up with Graham Meiklejohn at Berwick Railway Station.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the entry into service arrangements for Reston on the 23/05/2022.

A discussion took place about the various parties all trying to arrange events for the entry into service date and that there might be a risk of arrangements being repeated by each group.

Action: Tom D – Send out an email to all parties involved in the arrangements (SBC, TPE, Network Rail) to ensure everyone is on the same page.

Post meeting update – Action complete and no response received yet from any of the group involved.

Tom D submitted a spreadsheet of fares highlighting the disparities between Dunbar/Berwick and Dunbar/Edinburgh. Graham agreed to look into this further.

Tom T asked if TPE would be giving out Golden Tickets for the Opening Day,

We asked Graham when they would do their advertisements in the press and leaflet drops, and also suggested that some of the TPE should make calls at Musselburgh for students of QMR.

We asked about the Presbytery Clerk doing a Blessing for the opening – This was a great idea but felt we should approach the Railway Mission Chaplain at Waverley.

Action: Tom T to progress this further.

With Reston being an unstaffed station, we asked if there would there be anyone to assist senior persons/those not up to speed with ticket machines. GM would contact ScotRail, and we could assist for the first 1 or 2 weeks.

Graham stated that there would be one train every 2 hours, with a stepped approach to an hourly service. This would be based entirely on good patronage of the 8 services per day (due the way they were being funded) but TPE were happy that they had seen 63K passengers on their current 5 trains/day over a 12 week period.

A discussion took place regarding a late night service which would stop at Reston. GM suggested that we could look at the 'Shared Prosperity Fund' to fund the late night service to Berwick calling at intermediate stations (not called at by SR NB trains).

8. Constitution

Tom D took an action to contact Ian and Stewart to discuss the revised draft constitution.

9. Next RAG

No discussion.

10. Tweed Valley Railway Campaign

The RAGES committee have agreed to meet TVRC on Wednesday 11th May 6.30pm. to give them a tour of the Reston Railway station site.

RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

The committee agreed to take out corporate membership for TVRC depending on the cost.

The attached email sent to RAGES from one of our members regarding the empty and full Scotrail trains on some of the Scotrail routes was discussed. It was agreed to advise the person to contact Alex Hynes to highlight the issue.

Action: Tom D to reply to the person's email with the above advice.

11. AOCB

Barrie advised that Ayton Castle (and railway) will be opening on 01/05/2022.

The committee agreed that we should get together for a formal celebration of our achievement in getting Reston Railway Station into service.

Action: Everyone to suggest venues and locations.

It was suggested that we should have a souvenir calendar for commemorate the entry into service of Reston.

Action: Tom D to look into costs for this.

Action: Barrie to contact Jennifer Mearns Waverley Station manager to enquire if we could use the 1st Class lounge for one of our future committee meetings.

12. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 11th. May 3pm, Reston village hall, this will be followed by the site visit by TVRC committee. Transport arrangements for everyone 'north' of Reston will be sorted out nearer the time.

Appendix A

List of possible Invitees for Reston Railway Station Opening Party

Jeanna Swan
David Parker SBC
Graeme Johnstone SBC
Mark Rowley SBC
Helen Laing SBC
Carol Hamilton SBC
Jim Fullerton SBC
RAGES Committee
Alice Ruth Fisher
Lisa Pandolfi
Sarah Cooper
Russell Imrie
Joyce McLean
Reston Community Council
Ayton Community Council
Coldingham Community Council

RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

BAVS

John Lamont MP

Paul Wheelhouse former MSP

Rachael Hamilton MSP

Paul McLennan MSP

Jo Pawley

Mr & Mrs Veitch

RAGES Members

Eileen Anderson

Jenny Gilruth MSP Minister for Transport in Scotland

Ralph & Barbara Jordinson

John Yellowlees

Dave Jones

Ian Gray former MSP

Michael Veitch

Graham Meiklejohn Head of Regional Development, TransPennine Express

Humza Yousaf Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Michael Matheson Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Matthew Golten Managing Director TPE

Georgina Hill Councillor for Berwick East

Mr & Mrs R Darling

Bill Reeve transport Scotland

Rev. William Paterson.