**BROMSGROVE AND REDDITCH RAIL USER PARTNERSHIP**

**(BARRUP – formerly BRUG)**

Minutes of a meeting held at the Committee Room, Parkside, Wednesday 11 March 2020

**Present:**

Robert Cholmondeley (Chairman & Secretary), Paul Evans, Neil Franklin, Peter Hughes, Ed Read, Nick Taylor, Graham Vickery, Tony Woodward.

1. **Apologies and Minutes**

* Apologies had been received from Margaret Evans, Ed Huzzey and Sean Shannon.
* The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2019 were accepted.

1. **Change of Name**

* It was agreed to rename the group to Bromsgrove and Redditch Rail User Partnership (BARRUP). It will represent Barnt Green and Alvechurch as well as Bromsgrove and Redditch.
* The bank account will be renamed before consideration is given to collecting subscriptions.

1. **Worcestershire Parkway**

* After failing to open with the December 2019 timetable change, the station opened on Sunday 23 February 2020.
* Tony Woodward presented some pictures of the station and its surroundings from the opening day.
* Tony Woodward is undertaking a detailed piece of work on connections at Worcetsershire Parkway. They do not appear good.
* It was agreed that the station provides a limited function for Bromsgrove residents as it is not readily accessible by public transport.

1. **West Midlands Rail**

* The strike before Christmas 2019 was resolved by an agreement that drivers would open doors and the guard would close them.
* Although there has been a significant improvement in the standard of service since the end of 2019, there remain problems and reliability issues.
* The introduction of the new Class 196 trains should ease some of the overcrowding problems on the Hereford trains when they are phased in, probably in early 2021.
* There is work underway to increase the Hereford – Birmingham New Street service to a half hourly frequency, possibly by the end of 2020.

1. **Bromsgrove Station**

* The Keep Bromsgrove Beautiful group is in contact with Peter Chapman of the Community Rail Partnership about adoption of the station.
* There is no known date for the opening of the gate onto Garrington Road.
* It has not been thought appropriate to arrange a meeting with the Combined Rail Authority about issues at the station against the backdrop of the service and reliability problems that have had to be actively managed.

1. **Redditch**

* The unreliability of the Cross City service probably had the most impact at Redditch.
* Worcestershire Parkway does not appear to have any benefit for residents of Redditch without resorting to driving.
* A station adoption group is being formed.

1. **Alvechurch and Barnt Green**

* A station adoption group is being formed at Alvechurch.
* The potential for better car parking facilities at Alvechurch is being investigated by Worcestershire County Council with a landowner adjacent to the station.
* A meeting has been held between Network Rail and Barnt Green Parish Council updating the progress on getting approval from the Department for Transport for lifts.
* There has been no substantive response from West Midlands Rail to the list of improvements to Barnt Green station submitted by the Parish Council in September 2019.

1. **Camp Hill Line**

* Decisions are still awaited on the extent of the proposed services on the Camp Hill Line and to where the trains will run.

1. **Any Other Business**

* It was agreed that the minutes of meetings would be published on the BARRUP website 2 weeks after the meetings. This will give a brief window for attendees to feed back any inaccuracies.

RC 13.3.20