

SCPC – Dartmoor Line – Working Party Meeting 5th July 21.

Present M. Pratt, M. Wilson, M. Morrissey, Steve Whiteley, James McInness, Colin Lee and Jacqui Bourne.

Apologies – John Friend.

- MW – the aim of this Working Party is to keep up the momentum and interest to ensure that SC Station opens in the near future. Not only for the benefits of SC parishioners but the positive impact on the wider area.
- JMc – Current NWR Contract does not include SC Station but it is quite flexible. They are planning to start a few Sunday Services next year to help gauge interest. This group needs to galvanise local community to show support.
- JMc – Now that SC Station is part of NWR System it has to be refurbished to NWR standards.
- CL -Thinks the current platform is OK – but will need suitable shelter and lighting. Main issue is the lack of car parking. But Coplestone Station manages with parking on neighbouring roads.
- NWR are currently looking into registering the car park land – this is a very positive move. (Wouldn't do this if they did not intend to open the Station in the future)
- CL – current speed limit for the new track is 55 mph, but next year they plan to work on the level crossings which could increase the speed to 70mph – this may then build in enough time for additional stops.
- Okehampton Parkway Station is likely to take 2 – 3 yrs to complete therefore this group should promote SC Station as a viable alternative stop in the interim.
- SW – DCC owns the land for Parkway but currently does not have Planning Permission.
- JMc – 10 yrs ago DCC did get Planning Permission but it has since lapsed. But the principle has already been established. NWR currently using the site as a depot. Can't foresee any problems in obtaining Planning Permission.
- MW – We need to liaise with local bus companies to make sure their timetables include stops at the station that coincides with train times.
- MW – suggested that the group put together a joint consultation paper to get data to use to negotiate with the railway companies and government for further funding required.

- JB – Would like to put together a good introduction to the paper explaining the benefits to the Climate for getting more people out of cars and using the train. We need to show how more important and beneficial it will be in the near future eg Exeter congestion charges. Increased car parking charges.
- Suggest we target families – benefits for their children’s lifetimes.
- JMc – DCC already working with bus companies regarding buses up to current Okehampton station. This group could look into possibility of additional bus stop on wider verge opposite the SC station.
- MW – asked if Highways would do a feasibility study on this for the group.
- SW – Current bus routes to Okehampton are not ideal – improved services to bus routes and timetabling should be included in the survey.
- MW – offered to put together a draft survey for online submissions – that could also be used for paper copy. Try to include multiple person responses within households to cover all age groups on the survey.
- JB – knows someone at Mid Devon Coaches – she could invite to join next meeting.
- All members had been forwarded letter from R & J Bevis – in response, JMc said that NWR original bid was for £80 m and this was reduced to £40 m – SC Station, Parkway, North Tawton, Bow or Yeoford were not within the negotiations.
- MW – said she felt that despite that NWR seem to be demonstrating a positive willingness to consider SC Station in the future.
- CL – If the service is there, more people will use it. Trains are the future.
- MM – it would be useful to know if a “Request stop” would be considered for SC.
- SW + CL – happy to support MW as lead of this group, as it makes more sense as SC Station in her parish.

Actions

1. MW, JF and SW to attend OkeRail meeting in Okehampton 21st July – they will try and get SC Station mentioned and certainly added to the next Agenda.
2. SW – thought the constitution of OkeRail only allowed one representative per parish – but they will check this out.
3. SW & CL – would propose that NTTCC set aside a sum of money to use to pay for producing the survey.
4. MW – would ask SCPC to do the same
5. JMc – suggested the group apply to him for a grant from his Locality Fund.

6. All members to send suggestions for questions to MW to put together a draft of the survey by 15th July.
7. MM – suggested we should promote survey through the local schools. Children seem to be more positive about the need for action regarding the Climate than their parents.
8. Next meeting Mon July 26th TBC

NB – SCPC agreed at meeting on 6.7.21 to Ear Mark £200 towards cost of Survey.