

The **monthly** branch newsletter of **railfuture** in London and the South East

Britain's leading *independent* campaign for a bigger better railway for passengers and freight

Great Britain's Railways – attracting passengers 1947 > 2021



(with acknowledgements to reddit.com)

Railfuture members and others have seen and heard much of the Department for Transport's publication of their latest review, met initially with [our press release](#) "The end of rail franchising – will the passenger notice any improvement?" Our Policy Director Ian Brown CBE then published a comprehensive and informed critique in 'News and views' on our website.



One difference which some passengers will notice will come on Monday 21 June when some flexible season tickets will go on sale. As readers would expect of Britain's leading independent national campaign, we have already [been saying this](#) – and for [quite a while!](#)

We look forward to the next and we all hope final step, to be confirmed but for decision on Monday 14 June, and also set for Monday 21 June, provisionally, when all legal limits on social contact are due to be removed.

The overwhelming majority of rail users (95%) now feel confident about travelling in safety. Most rail non-users (59%) do too. Both figures are the best-ever in 2021! Source: Transport Focus weekly [Tracking Research](#).

"Transport User Voice" – the national watchdog's monthly newsletter. Click [here](#) to subscribe.

[COVID-19 briefing to Railfuture members](#)

Stay abreast with Railfuture's web [articles](#) and [tweets](#).

Britain's Growing Railway in London and the South East: happy birthdays in June!

~ on the 3rd, Mitcham Eastfields station, in 2008
~ on the 3rd, Meridian Water station, in 2019

~ on the 23rd, Heathrow Airport Junction <> Heathrow Terminal 4 via Terminals 1, 2 & 3, in 1998
~ on the 23rd, Heathrow Terminals 1, 2 & 3 station (later Terminals 2 & 3, now Heathrow Central), in 1998
~ on the 23rd, Heathrow Terminal 4 station, in 1998

~ on the 26th, Hitchin flyover, in 2013

Two error corrections, with apologies:

~ wrong, a year ago, to say no June birthdays!
~ wrong last month to say two Heathrow stations opened before the link to them; corrected above.

Our vision for rail: A railway system that provides services which travellers and freight forwarders want to use, and which offers more journey opportunities to more people and more freight.

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-May edition, no.35, of *inter-railse*, Railfuture's London and South East members have:

~ participated in an **online** alternate-monthly meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.

~ held a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.

~ participated in regular **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Eastern, and Kent Divisions.

~ contributed in an **online** alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.

~ participated in the **online** annual stakeholder Forums for Network Rail's Sussex and Wessex Routes.

~ contributed in an **online** stakeholder event for Railfuture with East West Rail Company.

~ observed the **online** Pre-Inquiry Meeting ahead of July's Public Inquiry for Rother Valley Railway's proposed Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction Order.

~ contributed in the **online** quarterly liaison meeting of the Railfuture RUG Award-winning Hastings & Rother Rail Users' Alliance with GTR Southern.

~ participated in an **online** stakeholder event for Railfuture and Southeast Communities Rail Partnership on Network Rail's draft Strategic Outline Business Case for their Kent and East Sussex Coastal Connectivity Programme, with four investment options.

What shall we be doing this month?

~ holding **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway and Herts & Beds Divisions.

southeastern

Working together, to bring people together.

~ participating **online** in Southeastern's annual stakeholder event.



~ participating in Southeast Communities Rail Partnership MarshLink Steering Group.



~ participating in the next quarterly meeting **online** of TfSE's Transport Forum.

~ participating in the first **online** Forum for TfSE's South East Radial Area Study.

~ holding regional Branch committee meetings **online**.



~ drafting responses on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's pre-submission Local Plan (by 4 June) and for East West Rail Company's second non-statutory consultation (by 9 June). See [Current consultations](#).

Our usual **t's and c's apply**: please respond individually as private citizens **without** making any reference to Railfuture, and **contribute your ideas** for Railfuture's responses to roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk who will be co-ordinating the responses on behalf of Railfuture.

All Railfuture submissions can be found [here](#).

Our vision for Railfuture: *An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision makers come for advice, and which rail users are proud to join and recommend.*

This branch e-newsletter is free, published monthly and distributed to branch members with their GDPR consent items for our newsletters, and our branch Local Action column in *railwatch*, to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

railfuture

Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for Britain's railway and rail users

Website: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) Twitter: [@RailfutureLSE](#)

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A 3rd birthday in our 70th anniversary

To note: 20th May marked the third anniversary of the start of the new national timetable which included GTR Southern's Railfuture-inspired 'Eastbourne overlap'.

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Tuesday 1 June East West Rail weekly live chat, **online** evening event.

Thursday 3 June Sussex & Coastway Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 3 June Herts & Beds Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Monday 7 June "Bank station upgrade." Free **online** evening webinar.

Tuesday 8 June "Promoting rail's green credentials." **Online** morning Community Rail Network webinar.

Wednesday 9 June "Towards a Strategic Investment Plan for transport in the South East." **Online** evening webinar.

Monday 14 June "Battery-powered trains with fast charging." Free **online** evening webinar.

Wednesday 16 June "ConnectedCities: Metroisation of the Railways - How to put Pullman Standard Public Transport at the heart of Build, Build, Build's new housing and communities." Hybrid all-day event.

Wednesday 23 June "Encouraging and enabling modal shift through community engagement." **Online** morning Community Rail Network webinar.

Saturday 26 June Railfuture East Anglia branch meeting, in Ipswich.

Tuesday 29 June "Rail West to East" conference.

Wednesday 30 June "Summer days out are better by rail." Community Rail Network all-day national event.

Saturday 10 July Railfuture's "Bridge the gap" and "Electrify Uckfield" stall at Uckfield Festival's 'Big Day', on Luxford Field, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5AD.

Saturday 17 July National Annual General Meeting, including Board election results, Birmingham.

Full details in our [Events](#) and [Rail dates](#) web pages.