

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

Future Hoo Development Framework

If Railfuture and its members are serious about what they stand for, this in Medway is The Big One – now.



Future Hoo St. Werburgh station

Local public exhibitions will be held on 2nd, 5th and 9th November. Network Rail's final North & East Kent Connectivity Study should be online before Medway Council's latest consultation for Hoo, on a draft Development Framework, closes on 25th November.

Railfuture will of course respond officially to the consultation; all members are now urged to respond – in their individual capacity as private citizens. There are just five questions in the online survey [here](#). They are about the proposed Vision, four key Principles, the Overall Framework Plan, the Neighbourhoods, and the fifth for any other comments.

While Network Rail's draft N. & E. Kent Connectivity Study makes many favourable references to the huge potential of the Grain branch for passenger services to and from a new Hoo St. Werburgh station and also for freight service expansion, the sticking-point appears to be a finite pot of Housing Infrastructure Fund money resulting in progressive de-scoping of the project to restore passenger services to the line, testing the concept of 'minimum viable product' to the limit!

In responding to the fifth 'other comments' consultation question members are recommended to bring Medway Council's attention to the model of Land Value Capture as a means of financing rail infrastructure; see [E-Rail](#). LVC is being pioneered with the Northumberland Line, also restoring a freight-only line for passenger use, with six new stations and c.30% of the project cost financed through Land Value Capture. Higher land values in West Oxfordshire have indicated that c.80% of the cost of a new branch line off the North Cotswold Line to Salt Cross garden village, Witney and Carterton (by RAF Brize Norton) could be LVC-financed.

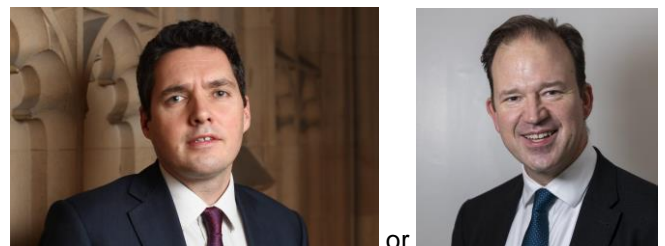
Medway Council officers and elected members need to know about this! There is a realistic way to support a more ambitious, transformational passenger rail project.

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 shall we be doing this month?

- ~ participating in an **online** meeting of the Transport Forum of Transport for the South East to review the proposed final draft of the Strategic Investment Plan.
- ~ participating in the Southeast CRP's Stakeholder Advisory Board.
- ~ participating in the Southeast CRP's Steering Groups for the Reigate / Redhill-Tonbridge and Uckfield / East Grinstead lines.
- ~ participating in the Southeast CRP's Steering Group and AGM for the MarshLink line.
- ~ attending the Railfuture-affiliated MarshLink Action Group's AGM.
- ~ operating a working display and stall in Ashford International station as part of the Ashford 180 anniversary events.
- ~ attending the Planning Inspectorate's hearing in Lewes into the District Council's refusal of an application for outline planning permission for up to 68 homes on the same key gap site between Ringmer and Broyle Side as was recently refused outline planning permission for up to 100 homes.
- ~ contributing to an alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.
- ~ participating in an alternate-monthly **online** meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.
- ~ holding regular meetings of our Eastern, Kent, Sussex & Coastway, and Herts & Beds Divisions
- ~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.

And the next Rail Minister will be...?



Bexhill & Battle or Hereford & South Herefordshire?

Huw Merriman MP and the Rt. Hon. Jesse Norman MP have each been appointed Minister of State in the DfT under the very latest Transport Secretary the Rt. Hon. Mark Harper MP (Forest of Dean). At press time their departmental responsibilities had not been published.

Britain's Growing Railway in London & South East: November birthdays

- ~ Southbury, Theobalds Grove, Turkey Street – 1960
- ~ Basildon – 1974 (25 years after being designated a New Town!)
- ~ Channel Tunnel, Waterloo Curve / Stewarts Lane Viaduct, Waterloo International – 1994
- ~ Braintree Freeport, Luton Airport Parkway – 1999
- ~ Channel Tunnel Rail Link / HS1 phase 2 (Southfleet Junction to London St. Pancras International), and Ebbsfleet International – 2007
- ~ Stratford International – 2009

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-October edition of *inter-railse* no.52, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members have, amongst their various other activities:

- ~ participated in an in-person meeting of Southeast CRP's North Downs Line Steering Group.
- ~ participated in Gatwick Airport's Transport Forum.
- ~ participated in an in-person CILT seminar "*Thames Gateway Tramlink (KenEx): Sustainable Transport for the East / South East Region*" presented by our Kent Division member Gordon Pratt.
- ~ participated in Great Western Railway's **hybrid** Community Rail and Stakeholder conference.
- ~ participated **online** in the 14th Kent Rail Summit.
- ~ participated in the South East Councils Summit "*Tomorrow's South East.*"
- ~ held a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.
- ~ held regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway and Herts & Beds Divisions (in-person / **online** resp).

Also in October, regional branch committee members:

- ~ responded to Network Rail's draft North & East Kent Connectivity Study.

Our vision for Railfuture: *An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision makers come for advice, 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'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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Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Wednesday 2 November Medway Council local public consultation event for "*Future Hoo.*"

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

Saturday 5 November Medway Council local public consultation event for "*Future Hoo.*"

Saturdays/Sundays 5/6 and 12/13 No services north of St. Pancras International, to / from Luton.

Sunday 6 November Elizabeth Line Sunday and through services commence, with higher frequencies and earlier starts / later finishes, between Shenfield – Paddington and Heathrow / Reading – Abbey Wood.

Sunday 6 - Friday 18 November COP27, Egypt.

Wednesday 9 November Eastern Division **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Wednesday 9 November Medway Council local public consultation event for "*Future Hoo.*"

Monday 14 November Transport Planning Day.

Tuesday 15 November "*Creating a Better Railway: Place-making and rail's role as a social and economic driver.*" RAIL magazine morning **webinar**.

Wednesday 16 November Herts & Beds Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Friday 18 November MarshLink Action Group AGM. Town Hall, Market St, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7LA.

Saturday/Sunday 19/20 November Railfuture L&SE regional branch stall for "*Ashford 180*" celebrations.

Saturday 19 November Kent Division afternoon meeting, Ashford. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 24 November ORR publishes estimates of station usage for April 2021-March 2022.

Friday 25 November Medway Council's consultation closes on Development Framework for "*Future Hoo.*"

Saturday/Sunday 26/27 November Railfuture stall B26, Hall 5 in National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

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