

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

A 'Decisions for Transport' edition!

In the wake of a new Parliament since mid-December, late-January saw the DfT release a trio of decisions affecting our regional branch area, and in so doing raised expectations about others to come imminently.

- ~ on 28 January a [£500million fund](#) was confirmed for restoring rail links to formerly-connected communities, together with £20million for a third New Stations Fund and £300k for a New Ideas Fund.
- ~ on 28 January DfT issued initial [Guidance](#) on bidding to the new funds, with local events being planned.
- ~ on 30 January the preferred route was announced for the [central, Bedford-Cambridge, section of East-West Rail](#). It will run via a modified Bedford Midland station, a new station between Sandy and St. Neots, a new station at Cambourne, a [new station at Cambridge South](#), and a modified Cambridge station.

Not to be outdone, on 29 January Network Rail issued an update on [proposals for Norwood Junction station](#).

In RNAP, the Rail Network Announcements Pipeline:

- ~ the Williams Rail Review
- ~ the fates of Southeastern, GWR, SWR
- ~ TWAO for East-West Rail Western section phase 2
- ~ the Oakervee HS2 Review
- ~ the Fares and Ticketing Review
- ~ GTR's Passenger Benefit Fund results.

Be in it to win it: [visit Vivarail](#) after renaming HS2!

Continuing with the DfT theme, January was also a 'data for transport' month for rail devotees.



On 14 January the ORR published the [estimates of station usage](#) for the year ending 31 March 2019, together with an updated time series since 1997/98.

On 28 January Transport Focus published the results of the [Autumn 2019 National Rail Passenger Survey](#).

A couple of February railway birthdays:

- ~ 1966 – Garston station opened on the Abbey line. In 2018/19 it had an estimated 80.7k entries and exits. Its best year was 2012/13 with 95.6k entries and exits!
- ~ 2011 – TfL's London Overground services extended from Dalston Junction to Highbury & Islington.

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 have we been doing out there?

Since the New Year edition no.19 of *inter-railse* Railfuture in London and the South East has:-

- ~ [responded to Transport for the South East's consultation](#) on its draft Transport Strategy, which closed on 10 January.
- ~ [responded to Lewes and Eastbourne Councils' consultation](#) on "Eastbourne's Direction of Travel: Issues and Options for the Eastbourne Local Plan 2018-38", which closed on 24 January.
- ~ run a weekend stall at Erith Model Railway Society's annual show in Longfield, Kent on 25/26 January.



What shall we be doing out there?

East Midlands Railway's consultation on its [proposals for the December 2020 timetable](#) closes on Friday 14 February; we'll liaise with other branches to respond.

Office of Rail & Road's consultation on [Accessibility of rail replacement services](#) closes on 14 February.

Mole Valley District Council's consultation on its "Future Mole Valley", the [draft Local Plan 2018-33](#) closes on Monday 23 March.

Hertfordshire County Council's consultation on its [draft Rail Strategy](#) closes Monday 30 March.

Department for Transport's consultation on [Closure of Newhaven Marine station](#) closes on Sunday 19 April.

We're **asking our audience**, that's you, our members! What do you wish us to say? **Your comments** please, to roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk who will forward them to the Railfuture member leading on our response.

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.

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Saturday 1-Saturday 29 February Northern City Line weeknight and weekend services suspended (except weekends of 8/9 and 15/16 February; see below).

Tuesday 4 February “*London Overground: History and Developments.*” Free evening talk in London.

Wednesday 5 February “*Freight logistics in 2020 and GB Railfreight’s role in it.*” Evening talk in Canterbury.

Thursday 6 February “*TfL’s new Service Control Centre at Hammersmith.*” Afternoon visit.

Thursday 6 February Sussex & Coastway Division. Afternoon meeting in Shoreham Port, Southwick.

Thursday 6 February “*Capital investment at Gatwick Airport.*” Free evening talk at Crawley.

Friday 7 February Copy date for your campaign news/reports for London & SE branch Local Action column in April’s *railwatch* no.163, and for March’s *railse* no.147. Send to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

Friday 7 February Copy date for your campaign news, letters, articles, photos to appear in April’s *railwatch* no.163. Send to editor@railwatch.org.uk

Saturday 8-Sunday 9 February All services reduced at London King’s Cross.

Monday 10 February Bexhill Rail Action Group.

Wednesday 12 February “*London Bridge.*” Free evening talk in London.

Thursday 13 February “*Losing track: an insider’s story of Britain’s railway transformation from British Rail to the present day.*” Evening talk in London on the theme of his book by John Nelson.

Friday 14 February “*Future Mole Valley*” exhibition event for Local Plan 2018-33.

Saturday 15 February Kent Division, Tonbridge.

Saturday 15 February “*Future Mole Valley*” exhibition event for Local Plan 2018-33.

Saturday 15-Sunday 16 February ECML services reduced at King’s Cross.

Saturday 15-Sunday 16 February GEML services suspended Liverpool Street-Ingatstone/Southend.

Saturday 15-Sunday 23 February Train services suspended on the Blackheath line (Kidbrooke<> Barnehurst) for landslip prevention works.

Monday 17 February “*Future Mole Valley*” exhibition event for Local Plan 2018-33.

Tuesday 18 February “*Open Access rail operations.*” Evening talk in Redhill.

Tuesday 18 February Chesham & District TUG.

Wednesday 19 February “*Future Mole Valley*” exhibition event for Local Plan 2018-33.

Wednesday 19 February “*The Future of Transport.*” Free evening talk in Basildon.

Thursday 20 February ORR publish Passenger Rail Performance for October-December 2019.

Thursday 20 February “*Future Mole Valley*” exhibition event for Local Plan 2018-33.

Friday 21 February “*Future Mole Valley*” exhibition event for Local Plan 2018-33.

Saturday 22 February Herts & Beds Division, St. Albans. Focus on Herts CC’s draft Rail Strategy.

Saturday 22-Sunday 23 February GEML services suspended Liverpool Street-Ingatstone/Southend.

Monday 24 February Campaign for Better Transport London group. Free evening meeting near Farringdon.

Monday 24 February “*Future Mole Valley*” exhibition event for Local Plan 2018-33.

Tuesday 25 February “*Vivarail.*” Free evening talk in Woking by Adrian Shooter.

Tuesday 25 February “*Future Mole Valley*” exhibition event for Local Plan 2018-33.

Wednesday 26 February “*Transport’s future: what will work and what won’t work.*” Evening talk in Southampton.

Friday 28 February “*Future Mole Valley*” exhibition event for Local Plan 2018-33.

Saturday 29 February Closing date to win a visit to Vivarail. Enter [Railfuture’s competition](#), rename HS2.

Saturday 29 February/Sunday 1 March **NO** services into/out of London King’s Cross station.

Saturday 29 February/Sunday 1 March GEML services suspended to/from Liverpool Street.

Sunday 1 March Closing date to enter [RUG Awards](#).

Saturday 25 April London & South East branch AGM.

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

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

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