

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

## Attracting more passengers to rail "Wish I was there"

At London Waterloo station until Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August and then at Reading station until Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August, Network Rail has launched an [exhibition](#) to celebrate the return of rail travel. The [Top Twenty winners](#) include several with a London & South East theme.



"Where am I?" Kent, with two stations.

## Britain's Growing Railway in London & South East: happy August birthday

~ on the 12<sup>th</sup> (after a 'soft opening' to passengers on 25<sup>th</sup> July) the official opening of London Overground's Hackney Interchange in 2015.



## What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-July edition, no.37, of *inter-railse*, Railfuture's London and South East members have:

~ submitted responses to the calls for evidence by England's Economic Heartland for their two Connectivity Studies, for the Oxford-Milton Keynes and the Peterborough-Northampton-Oxford corridors. All Railfuture submissions can be found [here](#).

~ participated in an [online](#) Southeast Communities Rail Partnership North Downs Line Steering Group / AGM.

~ taken Railfuture's stall for our "Bridge the gap" and "Electrify Uckfield" campaigns to Uckfield Festival's 'Big Day' (five Railfuture stall-holders volunteered).



### Attracting passengers back to rail

### railfuture Webinar

[www.railfuture.org.uk/webinar](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/webinar)

Britain's railway faces its greatest threat since the 1960s Beeching cuts. COVID-19 caused patronage to collapse. It has only partly recovered. The government will not keep the railway afloat at vast cost indefinitely. Fare income from passengers is vital. The public must use the railway or risk losing it.

Rail travel must be safe, value for money, punctual, convenient and enjoyable. Our rail industry speakers represent organisations that can offer expert advice or take necessary actions to encourage people to use Britain's railway.

Webinar includes a Q&A – it's your chance to tell senior people in the rail industry what you want from your railway

**Saturday 3 October 2020** #ReturnToRail  
11.00 - 12.30 **Admission FREE** - booking essential



**Charlene Wallace**  
Director for National Passenger & Customer Experience  
**Network Rail**



**Jacqueline Starr**  
Chief Operating Officer (pre-recorded video)  
**Rail Delivery Group**



**Ali Chegini**  
Director of Systems and Health  
**RSSB**



**Peter Sargant**  
Head of Rail Development  
**West Midlands Rail Executive**



**Linda McCord**  
Senior Stakeholder Manager  
**Transport Focus**

Ten months later, how different are our messages now?

A consistent majority of rail users (87%) feel confident about travelling in safety, despite trains being busier. Most rail non-users (57%) remain confident that they would travel in safety if they had to go by train. 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](#).

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

~ contributed in the first meeting [online](#) of TfSE's South West Radial Area Study Forum, and in the second meeting [online](#) of TfSE's South East Radial Area Study Forum.

~ participated in an [online](#) Southeast Communities Rail Partnership Stakeholder Advisory Board.

~ participated in an [online](#) alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.

~ contributed in an [online](#) alternate-monthly meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.

~ observed an [online](#) session of the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group with the Rail Minister on Great British Railways – and had questions put to him.

~ taken part in regular [online](#) meetings of our Eastern, Herts & Beds and Sussex & Coastway Divisions.

~ held a regional Branch committee meeting [online](#).

## What shall we be doing this month?

~ contributing in the second meeting [online](#) of TfSE's South West Radial Area Study Forum.

~ participating in the SCRP birthday party for Eridge station marking its heritage restoration.

~ holding an [online](#) meeting of our Kent Division.

~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting [online](#).

~ finalising our responses to the East Coast Main Line May 2022 timetable consultations, and drafting our responses to Lewes District Council's 'Issues and Options' consultation for its new Local Plan, to the AW2E Partnership's second consultation on Improving transport links between Abbey Wood and Ebbsfleet, and to South Western Railway's consultation on its proposed timetable for December 2022.

Our usual [t's and c's apply](#): please **contribute your ideas** for Railfuture's 'single voice' responses to [roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk) who will be co-ordinating them, and respond individually as private citizens but without making any reference to Railfuture.

**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](mailto: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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## Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

**Thursday 5 August** Close of consultations on



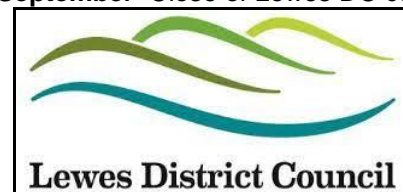
East Coast Main Line services from May 2022.

**Thursday 19 August** Office of Rail & Road publishes annual Rail Emissions 2020-21.

**Saturday 21 August** Kent Division afternoon meeting. Invite non-members!

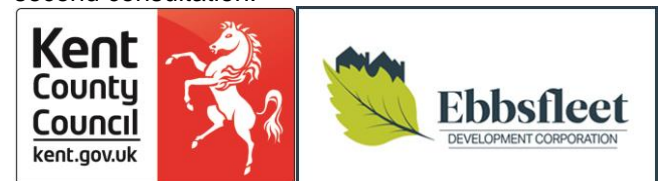
**Thursday 2 September** "Kent and East Sussex Coastal Connectivity Programme." Sussex & Coastway Division [online](#) evening meeting, with speaker from Network Rail, re-arranged from 15 July. Invite non-members!

**Friday 3 September** Close of Lewes DC consultation:



"Issues and Options" for draft Lewes District Local Plan.

**Friday 3 September** Close of AW2E Partnership second consultation:



"Improving transport links between Abbey Wood and Ebbsfleet."

**Saturday 4 September** Railfuture Thames Valley branch AGM, Oxford.

**Saturday 4 September** Railfuture London & South East branch Herts & Beds Division, St. Albans. Invite non-members!

**Monday 13 September** Farnborough North station project launch event, postponed from July, under auspices of Southeast Communities Rail Partnership North Downs Line Steering Group.

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