

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

New Year edition

“Rail Recovery – how to realise the potential”

Webinar Wednesday on 12 January 2022, 11.30-13.00.



Register, then Zoom free. Full details: [#ReturnToRail](#)

Chaired by Railfuture Hon. President Christian Wolmar this free **webinar** will feature two current (above) and two former (below) senior rail industry practitioners.

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.*

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

Smaller majorities of rail users (down to 81%) and of non-rail users (down to 56%) remain confident about travelling safely by train, probably the omicron effect. Source: Transport Focus weekly [Tracking Research](#).

Click [here](#) to subscribe to “*Transport User Voice*”.

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

What has [@RailfutureLSE](#) been doing?

Since the December edition, no.42, of *inter-railse*, Railfuture’s London and South East members have:

~ noted the refusal by Lewes District Council’s Planning Applications Committee, contrary to its officers’ advice, of an application for outline permission for up to 97 dwellings on a gap site in Ringmer, to which we had objected on planning policy grounds.

~ joined LNER on a special London King’s Cross - Spalding return trip through the Werrington dive-under by 9-car Azuma 800107.

~ participated in a Network Rail / GTR **online** briefing about next February half-term’s Brighton Main Line closure south of Three Bridges.

~ participated in the quarterly **online** meeting of the Transport Forum of sub-national transport body Transport for the South East.

~ participated in an **online** session of the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group on “*Don’t pandemic! – Re-setting the transport system.*”

~ held a regular **online** meeting of our Herts & Beds Division, and an evening social for our Sussex & Coastway Division.

What shall we be doing this month?

~ participating in an **online** meeting of SCRP’s North Downs Line CRP Steering Group.

~ contributing to an alternate-monthly meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.

~ contributing to an alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee, in Buxted.

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

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

~ attending the **online** briefing for stakeholders on the public consultation about the draft Transport Strategy of sub-national transport body Transport East.

~ drafting our response to the draft Transport Strategy of sub-national transport body Transport East.

~ drafting our response to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for South East’s inquiry – *Financing for the future – what does levelling up mean for SE England?*

All Railfuture submissions can be found in our library via the website’s home page, and [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.*

N.B. Dramatis personae (clockwise from top left): Steve White, Southeastern MD; Suzanne Donnelly, GBR Transition Team Commercial Director; Ian Brown CBE, former Railfreight Distribution MD, TfL Rail MD; Stewart Palmer, former South West Trains MD.

Britain's Growing Railway in London and South East: January birthdays

~ on the 5th, in 1981, restoration of passenger services from Barking into Gospel Oak instead of Kentish Town, after a 55-year break - now with four, 4-car electric, tph!

~ on the 8th, in 1996, Ashford International connected to the European high-speed network when Eurostar began serving the station, but pandemic withdrawal of services from Kent's two stations continues indefinitely.

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

until Sunday 9 January Landscape Photographer of the Year exhibition, London Bridge station.

Wednesday 5 January Medway Council's "Future Hoo" mid-morning / mid-afternoon consultation event.

Wednesday 5 January Medway Council's "Future Hoo" late-afternoon / evening consultation event.

Thursday 6 January Sussex & Coastway Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Friday 7 January Medway Council's "Future Hoo" afternoon-evening public consultation event.

Saturdays 8/15/22/29-Sundays 9/16/23/30 January Bishops Stortford trackworks affect West Anglia route.

Monday 10-Sunday 23 January Landscape Photographer of the Year exhibition moves to London Liverpool Street station.

Monday 10 January Close of Medway Council's second "Future Hoo" consultation.

Tuesday 11 January Herts & Beds Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Tuesday 11 January Transport East draft Transport Strategy consultation evening **webinar**.

Wednesday 12 January Close of Call for Evidence for All-Party Parliamentary Group for South East's 'Levelling-up' inquiry.

Wednesday 12 January Eastern Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 13 January "Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit – HERT." Afternoon **online** engagement event.

Saturday 15-Sunday 16 January Brighton Main Line south of Three Bridges closed, pre-February closure.

Tuesday 18 January "Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit – HERT." Evening **online** engagement event.

Friday 28 January Close of Herts County Council's consultation on Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit.

Friday 28 January Copy date for your campaign news / reports for L&SE branch Local Action column in April's **railwatch** no.171, and March's **raise** no.155. Send to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

Saturday 29-Sunday 30 January L&SE branch stall at rail exhibition in Longfield – event **CANCELLED**.

Sunday 30 January Close of Transport East's consultation on their draft Transport Strategy.

Monday 31 January Nominations close for 2022 L&SE regional branch committee, full committee of 4 officers + 6 members to be elected for a 1-year term.

Tuesday 1 February Nominations close for 2022 Board of Directors, 3 to be elected for a 3-year term.

Tuesday 1 February Copy date for your campaign news, letters, articles, photos to appear in April's **railwatch** no.171. Send to editor@railwatch.org.uk

Saturday 19-Sunday 27 February Half-term closure of Brighton Main line south of Three Bridges.



Saturday 19-Sunday 20 March London & South East regional branch stall at rail exhibition in Ally Pally, N22.

Saturday 16 April Closing date for nominations for Rail User Group Awards 2021-22.



Saturday 30 April London and South East regional branch annual open meeting (with AGM).

Saturday 16 July National AGM with presentations for Campaigner of the Year and RUG Awards, Bristol.

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

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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