

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

Medway Local Plan 2040

Medway Council, a unitary authority under changed political control since May's local elections, launched consultation for its new Local Plan in mid-September. There are seven [local events](#) during October giving opportunities to view the proposals and talk to officers. This is our first chance since Hoo Peninsula Railway was 'paused' to re-engage with the case for that vital project given the scale of housing growth anticipated.



Email your comments for consideration in Railfuture's response to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

What shall we be doing this month?

London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, will be:-

- ~ participating in the annual Kent Rail Summit.
- ~ contributing to a meeting of Southeast CRP's North Downs Line Steering Group.
- ~ participating in a meeting of TfSE's Transport Forum.
- ~ holding a regular evening meeting of our Sussex & Coastway Division **online** and a Herts & Beds Division meeting in Bricket Wood station's new Tea Room (tbc).
- ~ holding a regular meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, **online**.
- ~ anticipating the launch this autumn (September-November) of Lewes District Council's consultation on 'Preferred Options' for its new Local Plan.
- ~ finalising and submitting our response to [consultation](#) by Medway Council – "Setting the direction for Medway 2040" for their new Local Plan 2022-2040.

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.*

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-September edition of *inter-railse* no.63, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

- ~ presented our "Bridge the gap" campaign on a stall at the revived Lewes Societies Fair.
- ~ submitted our response to Kent County Council's consultation on its Emerging Local Transport Plan 5.
- ~ submitted our joint response with Wessex regional branch to GTR's proposals for changes to Southern's West Coastway timetable.
- ~ contributed to a final stakeholders' workshop on Network Rail's Kent-Gatwick Connectivity Study.
- ~ participated in GWR's annual Community Rail and Stakeholders' conference.
- ~ participated in the celebrations for Kent CRP's 20th anniversary.
- ~ participated in a meeting of TfSE's Transport Forum.
- ~ participated in the Transport for the South East conference at the Amex Stadium, Falmer.
- ~ participated in the annual joint meeting of Southeast CRP's Oxted-Uckfield / East Grinstead and Tonbridge-Redhill / Reigate line steering groups.
- ~ held regular evening meetings of our Eastern and Herts & Beds Divisions **online** and Sussex & Coastway Division in-person in Brighton.
- ~ held a regular **online** meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee.
- ~ learned from Southeastern that the predecessor to Thanet Parkway station was Ebbsfleet and Cliffsend Halt, sited a short distance to the south-west, and closed after just 25 years' service on 1st April 1933;



also noted the official opening of the new station on Friday 8th September by Rail Minister Huw Merriman.

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

~ 3rd, in 1988 – Arlesey in Central Bedfordshire, after a Before Beeching Closure (BBC) in 1959.

~ 5th, in 1981 – Kentish Town West, after a fire a decade earlier had necessitated its closure.

~ 22nd, in 1988 – How Wood, a new station on the Abbey Line as it was electrified.

~ 26th, in 2015 – new Chiltern services between London Marylebone and Oxford Parkway, via the new Bicester chord and reopened stations at Islip and Bicester Village, a first glimpse of East-West Rail!

***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.*

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Saturday 30 September / Sunday 1 October, Saturday 7 / Sunday 8 October Midland Main Line services suspended / amended for upgrade to OLE south of Bedford for 125mph operation of new trains.

Tuesdays 3 / 10 / 17, Thursdays 5 / 12 / 19, Saturday 14 October Local events around Medway for public consultation on [Local Plan 2040](#).

Thursday 5 October ORR publishes Passenger rail usage for Q1 2023/24 (April-June 2023) – passenger train KM, passenger KM, journeys, revenue.

Thursday 5 October Sussex & Coastway Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Friday 6 October ORR publishes Passenger rail performance: P-coded train cancellations (ie changes to train services caused by non-availability of staff or rolling stock) for Period 6, 20 August-16 September.

Saturday 7 October Railfuture East Midlands regional branch open afternoon meeting at East Midlands Parkway station on “*Future Freight – rail ready, or ready to fail?*” with Simon Walton.

Thursday 12 October ORR publishes Rail Emissions 2022/23 - Annual statistics covering electricity and diesel consumption of mainline passenger and freight operators in Great Britain and estimates of their associated CO2e emissions.

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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Saturday 14 October Herts & Beds Division daytime in-person meeting, Bricket Wood station Tea Room or central London, tba. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 19 October ORR publishes Rail infrastructure and assets 2022/23 – annual statistics covering average age of rolling stock used by passenger train operating companies and reference data on the mainline infrastructure in Great Britain.

Sunday 29 October Close of Planning Inspectorate's period for registering as Interested Party in the DCO for Gatwick Airport Ltd's Northern Runway project.

Tuesday 31 October Close of Medway Council's consultation for new [Local Plan 2040](#).

Tuesday 31 October ORR expect to publish by this date their 'final determination' of Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan for Control Period 7, 2024-29.

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

Railfuture is 'in the news' / 'making the news' / sharing 'news and views'

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture members making, not just watching, things happen in our website [media extracts](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture making, not just reporting, the news through our [press releases](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture's and others' reports and thoughts published in our [website articles](#).

~ Railfuture is active on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [LinkedIn](#).

Be in it to win it - join Railfuture's Lottery!

Members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – can support Railfuture by joining our monthly [lottery](#).

Railfuture publications by email

~ All members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – are being encouraged to receive [Railwatch](#) direct to their Inbox immediately on publication by logging-in at [Member services](#).

~ receive Railfuture's regular monthly newsletter [Rail User Express](#) direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk

~ receive Railfuture's occasional [Rail Action](#) bulletin direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk