

Hastings & Rother Rail Users Alliance (HRRUA)



One year on from the introduction of the new rail timetable for the East Coastway, on Friday, 7th June 2019 the Hastings & Rother Rail Users Alliance (HRRUA) hosted Angie Doll (centre) – newly appointed Managing Director of GTR’s Southern Rail – and her Strategic Planning team for a full day tour of the East Coastway and Marshlink from Eastbourne to Ashford International.

Cllr. Terry Byrne, Chair of Rother D.C, Cllr. Doug Oliver, Leader and Cllr. Deirdre Earl-Williams welcomed Angie at Bexhill Station, for morning coffee at the De La Warr Pavilion where she met community representatives and local employers.

This was followed by a working lunch at the Mermaid Inn, Rye, which similarly brought together local government representatives and key employers from Hastings and Rye.

The theme of the day was “Rail connectivity and the area economy”, with both events providing the opportunity for local businesses to thank Southern for the effectiveness of the new timetable, at the same time emphasising to Angie and her colleagues the importance of a good, reliable rail service for recruitment and retention of their staff, for their clients and for their businesses to succeed.

From Rye, Angie and her team continued on to Ashford International to make the connection with Southeastern’s High Speed 1 service back to St. Pancras International.

Angie Doll said: “I’d like to thank the Rail Users Alliance for recognising the very real improvements we made for passengers using our East Coastway service a year ago.

“The changes we made came about following extensive consultation with HRRUA and other stakeholders from the community.

“We have doubled the length of most trains between Brighton and Hastings and increased the frequency of services by a third between Eastbourne and Hastings.

“We now have better connections with high-speed services at Ashford International, saving passengers time, and a new late evening train one hour later than before, from Ashford International to Hastings via Rye.

“On top of that, Southern trains are more punctual now than they have been for four years.”

Added Hugh Sharp, Chairman of HRRUA: “Faster and more reliable rail connections are critical for future prosperity in this part of East Sussex. This very successful rail tour brought together all the key stakeholders to celebrate progress so far and set future goals”.