

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

## Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer edition

This, below, is what success looks like, for a couple of local Railfuture-affiliated rail user groups from counties at opposite ends of our regional branch area.



[ABFLY](#) has a report from [The Railway Consultancy Ltd](#) as a firm evidence base for the long-running campaign to increase service frequency on the Hertfordshire line. After crowd-funding to raise the firm's fee, the study has tested the feasibility of [options for a passing loop](#) on the line. The favoured one is 'the Penryn solution', an extended single platform part-covered by a passing loop and used at opposite ends by trains travelling in opposite directions along the single-track line. It's now listed as one of the County Council's [top ten priorities!](#)

In East Sussex, [Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group](#) are winning a decade-long campaign to boost their long-standing weekdays peaks-only services. GTR promise all-day hourly six-day services in December!



*Cooksbridge station serves several rural communities*

## Calendar of current consultations

South Western Railway's [Customer and Communities Improvement Fund](#) – closes Friday 6 September.

Great Western Railway's [Customer and Communities Improvement Fund](#) – closes Sunday 8 September.

DfT's [Access for All CP6 Mid-Tier Programme](#) – closes Friday 18 October.

England's Economic Heartland's [Outline Transport Strategy](#) – closes Thursday 31 October.

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](mailto: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.*

## What have we been doing out there?

Since the previous, early-July, edition Railfuture has:-

~ participated in the latest regular quarterly meeting of the [RUG Award-winning Hastings & Rother Rail Users Alliance](#) with GTR negotiating future timetable changes.

~ participated in the latest occasional meeting of strategic stakeholders for the '[High-Speed Hastings](#)' project, which the [MP for Hastings & Rye](#) convenes.

~ run our seventh stall at the 20<sup>th</sup> Uckfield Festival's annual 'Big Day', shown below, at which we launched our new promotional leaflet '[LUcky Garden Village](#)'



*You think you need a rail link? To get it you'll need a new garden village, too! Trust us, we're rail campaigners!*

~ developed ideas for GTR's [Passenger Benefit Fund](#) at Cooksbridge, Ore, Rye, Three Oaks, Winchelsea.

~ participated in the Community Rail South East inaugural Showcase event at Southampton Harbour.

~ participated in the [England's Economic Heartland](#) and [South East LEP](#) annual conferences.

~ published the monthly [Rail User Express](#) for July.

~ published the quarterly [railse](#) and [Railwatch](#).

~ responded to Network Rail's consultation on the proposed upgrade of [Norwood Junction station](#).

~ responded to the Transport for the South East consultation on [Becoming a Statutory Body](#).

~ contributed to Govia Thameslink Railway's request for ideas for their £15m [Passenger Benefit Fund](#).

***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.*

## Beware swallows and Spring (survey)

Now a year on from the problems of the May 2018 timetable changes and the results of Transport Focus' [National Rail Passenger Survey](#) from its Spring 2019 survey published on 27 June have led to sighs of relief! The contrasting absence of negative media coverage of this year's May timetable changes was very telling.

In our regional branch area the worst problems were on the Thameslink and Great Northern parts of GTR's network, reviewed below in the first re-appearance of any such table since the March 2017 *raillse* no.135!

Comparing national / London & SE overall satisfaction scores for Spring 2019 with Spring 2018:

**Overall satisfaction with journey** – national 83%, **up** 3%; London & South East 83%, **up** 4%.

**Overall satisfaction with station** – national 80%, **up** 1%; London & South East 80%, **up** 2%.

**Punctuality/reliability** – national 77%, **up** 5%; London & South East 76%, **up** 7%.

**Value for money for price of ticket** – national 47%, **up** 2%; London & South East 44%, **up** 3%.

**Level of crowding** – national 72%, **up** 2%; London & South East 72%, **up** 4%.

**Dealing with delays** – national 40%, **up** 3%; London & South East 38%, **up** 3%.

Next to our L&SE TOCs, with their scores for overall satisfaction and national rankings (out of 25 operators, franchised and open access, with Heathrow Connect absorbed into TfL Rail so no comparisons valid yet,) and then after / for L&SE rankings (out of 14, likewise):

**c2c** 85%, **down** 1%; 14<sup>th</sup> = / 7<sup>th</sup>

**Chiltern Railways** 90%, **down** 1%; 3<sup>rd</sup> = / 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Gatwick Express** 89%, **up** 2%; 6<sup>th</sup> = / 3<sup>rd</sup> =

**Great Northern** 77%, **down** 1%; 25<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup>

**Great Western Railway** 87%, **up** 6%; 11<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup>

**Greater Anglia** 80%, **up** 4%; 21<sup>st</sup> = / 11<sup>th</sup> =

**Heathrow Express** 95%, no change; 1<sup>st</sup> / 1<sup>st</sup>

**London Overground** 88%, no change; 10<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup>

**South Western Railway** 78%, **down** 2%; 23<sup>rd</sup> = / 13<sup>th</sup>

**Southeastern** 80%, **up** 5%; 21<sup>st</sup> = / 11<sup>th</sup> =

**Southern** 81%, **up** 12%; 20<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup>

**TfL Rail** – absorbed Heathrow Connect, no data

**Thameslink** 83%, **down** 3%; 17<sup>th</sup> = / 9<sup>th</sup>

**West Midlands Trains** 84%, **up** 3%; 16<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup>

# Recovery from a low base for some in Autumn 2018 must not disguise change-resistant longer-term trends!

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 *raillwatch*, to [londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk)

## Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

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

**Monday 12 August** Bexhill Rail Action Group.

**Tuesday 13 August** Chesham & District TUG.

**Saturday 17 August** Kent Division.

**Tuesday 27 August** Copy date for your campaign news, letters, articles, photos to appear in October's *raillwatch* no.161. Send to [editor@railwatch.org.uk](mailto:editor@railwatch.org.uk)

**Friday 30 August** "Dealing with conflict." Lunchtime webinar.

**Monday 2 September** "UN Sustainable Development goals: the road ahead." Free evening talk, London.

**Tuesday 3 September** "The art of constructing timetables." Free evening talk, Watford.

**Thursday 5 September** Sussex & Coastway Division.

**Friday 6 September** Campaign for Better Transport, London group. Non-members welcome, Farringdon.

**Monday 9 September** IMechE Railway Division Chair's Address. Free evening talk, London.

**Monday 9 September** Bexhill Rail Action Group.

**Monday 9 September** "Mail Rail." Evening talk, near East Croydon station.

**Wednesday 11 September** "New tools for climate repair: intro. for engineers." Free evening talk, London.

**Wednesday 11 September** Eastern Division.

**Saturday 14 September** Herts & Beds Division.

**Monday 16 September** "Red for danger." Free evening talk, London.

**Monday 16 September** "Engineering cleaner air." Free evening talk, London

**Tuesday 17 September** "Mail Rail and the Postal Museum." Afternoon visit in London, entry charge.

**Saturday 21 September** "Every passenger matters." Railfuture annual national autumn [conference](#), Bristol.

**Saturday 28 September** East Anglia branch open meeting, with Network Rail guest speaker, Norwich.

# 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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