

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 an early-autumn edition

We begin by looking at the implications for rail growth of housing growth at five locations across our area.



In mid-August the new Chancellor of the Exchequer [announced over £600 million](#) to support up to 50,000 new homes in five 'high-demand' areas in the South East, four in London and Bedfordshire and one in Essex, and all with rail development implications.

**Meridian Water** on West Anglia's Lea Valley line, where new half-hourly all-day every day services start on Monday 9 September, has funding for 'rail works'.

**Beaulieu Park** on the Great Eastern main line receives funding for a new rail station in Chelmsford.

**New Bermondsey** will be a new station name on the East London line Clapham Junction route in Lewisham.

**Biggleswade** station on the East Coast main line will see more passengers from c.3k new homes.

'**Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community**' of 7500 new homes has NQ provision for any rail development. Railfuture abhors rail vacuums!

Meanwhile in Surrey Tandridge District has been granted £150k to develop plans for [South Godstone Garden Community](#) of around 4k new homes in the catchment of the station on the Redhill-Tonbridge line.

The message is clear: rail development must be closely aligned with economic development which in the south east of the country means housing growth. That is the rationale being followed with Railfuture's approach to fulfilling the desire for an **Uckfield-Lewes** rail link; it has to be linked to a [new garden community](#).

**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.

## What have we been doing out there?

Since the early-August edition no.14 Railfuture has:-

- ~ participated in a further meeting of CRPs in the TfSE area, reviewing July's Community Rail South East inaugural Showcase event at Southampton Harbour.
- ~ held a quarterly Kent Division meeting in Staplehurst.
- ~ participated in a second Network Rail stakeholders' workshop developing the [West Coastway Connectivity CMSP](#), for autumn public consultation.
- ~ supported colleagues in Lincolnshire branch on their stall at a conference about climate change.
- ~ published the monthly [Rail User Express](#) for August.
- ~ participated in the launch of the new Sevenoaks-Swanley [Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership](#).



~ supported the setting-up of a new rail user group for Plumstead and the two Woolwich stations, PAWRUG, with an inaugural open meeting on 2 September.

## What will we be doing out there?

Railfuture already has a network of 'TOC liaisons', members of the national [Passenger Group](#) whose role is to cultivate working relations with the train operating companies. Under Chief Executive Andrew Haines Network Rail is changing to a network of **14 Routes**, giving our national [Infrastructure & Networks Group](#) the opening to develop a network of new NR liaisons. This London & South East branch covers 9 Routes and so has several opportunities to work more closely with NR.

**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.

## 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.



Later this month TfSE is expected to publish its draft Transport Strategy for consultation – more next month.

## Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

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

**Monday 2 September** Plumstead and Woolwich RUG inaugural meeting, Woolwich Centre Library.

**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** “Fundamentals of Project Management.” Morning webinar.

**Friday 6 September** “Project 13: from transactions to enterprise.” Lunchtime webinar.

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

**Saturday 7 September** Railfuture's “Bridge the gap” campaign for Uckfield-Lewes rail link with new garden community. Stall at annual Lewes Societies Fair.

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

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

**Monday 9 September** “New housing and public transport: making the connection.”

‘Transport for new homes’ evening talk in London.

**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** “The art of being assertive.” Free evening workshop in Slough.

**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.

**Tuesday 17 September** Chesham & District TUG.

**Wednesday 18 September** South Western Railway's Senior Development Manager Phil Dominey. Evening talk, Eastleigh.

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

**Saturday 21 September** Heritage Open Day, Bat and Ball station, Darent Valley CRP.

**Sunday 22 September** World Car-Free Day.

**Monday 23 September** Stakeholder Forum for Southeastern, London.

**Thursday 26 September** “Infrastructure investment.” Lunchtime webinar.

**Friday 27 September** “Effective negotiation.” Lunchtime webinar.

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

**Wednesday 2 October** “A Transport Strategy for the South East.” Free evening talk in Ashford.

**Thursday 3 October** “Inspiring the next generation of civil engineers.” Lunchtime webinar.

**Thursday 3 October** Sussex & Coastway Division.

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**

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