

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 mid-autumn edition

As the seasons begin to change so we begin by asking an odd question: What does the 'e' in **railse** stand for?

Ever since October 2010 **railse** has been the title of the quarterly newsletter of the London and South East regional branch of Railfuture. That issue concluded: "And finally, what's in a name? Take your pick from the regionalised version of the now-superseded and geographically-biased 'railondon' viz. **railfuture in london and the south east**; or, [remembering why there had to be an 'e' in the Anglo-French Concorde] reflecting that we're the only regional Branch with direct **rails to europe**."

That was then, this is now, almost a decade later when there will be many who would argue that the 'e' should stand for **environment**. In a sense it always has, if not explicitly, as after walking and cycling rail is, as we all know, the quintessential sustainable mode of travel.

Demise of Southern's dirty diesels

Since the mid-August start of Abellio's new franchise [East Midlands Railway](#), details of its rolling stock plan have begun the countdown to the loss of our 20-strong 56-vehicle class 171 Turbostar fleet to 'EMR Regional'.



Eastbourne – post-September 2021, a historic view?

Replacements planned by September 2021 - end-date for GTR's management contract unless it's extended - are Electrostars with bi-mode battery capability for the Uckfield-Hurst Green and Ore-Ashford International unelectrified route sections. If this means cascade back to Southern of class 377s from Southeastern, then Railfuture will have an interest in what replaces them, too. Both networks are crying out for extra, not just replacement, capacity provided by modern trains. Soon that 'e' might stand for the end of emissions!

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.

E is for Eurostar, F is for flugscham

London St. Pancras International's incredible journeys: to Brisbane and then Sydney for a CILT/Railway Study Forum Australia Study Tour, starting in mid-October!



Bon voyage, Luke Ripley (4th left), Wednesday 28 August

What have we been doing out there?

Since the early-September edition no.15 Railfuture in London and the South East has:-

- ~ participated in the launch of the new Sevenoaks-Swanley [Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership](#).
- ~ supported the public launch of a new rail user group in south-east London, [PAWRUG](#).
- ~ participated in the Southeastern Stakeholder Forum in London, with your Vice-Chair requested to chair the concluding Q&A session to the panel of speakers.
- ~ participated in the annual Sussex CRP joint meeting of the Uckfield/East Grinstead and Reigate-Redhill-Tonbridge lines, with Southern MD Angie Doll as one of the guest speakers.
- ~ participated in the Sussex CRP MarshLink Steering Group's quarterly meeting.
- ~ responded to the London Assembly's Call for Evidence on [London's Transport now and in the future](#).

What should we be doing out there?

We're **asking the audience**, that's you, our members! What do you wish us to say? What would you like to see Railfuture do in the London & South East region? What can you offer to contribute to our activities?

Your comments to roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk who will take them to branch committee, and report back.

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

London Northwestern Railway's [Customer and Communities Improvement Fund](#) – closes 7 October.

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.

Coast to Capital LEP's [Local Industrial Strategy](#) – also closes Thursday 31 October.

TfSE will launch its [draft Transport Strategy](#) for public consultation on 10 October, closing 10 January 2020.

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 who will forward them to the Railfuture member leading on our response.

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

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

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.

Friday 4 October "The art of being assertive." Morning webinar.

Tuesday 8 October "High-Output track renewals – ready for CP6." Free evening talk in Croydon.

Wednesday 9 October "Welcome to Rail!" Free evening networker in London.

Monday 14 October Bexhill Rail Action Group.

Tuesday 15 October "Investment analysis and the engineer." Lunchtime webinar.

Wednesday 16 October Transport for the South East public drop-in for draft Transport Strategy consultation, Reading.

Wednesday 16 October "Young woman in engineering" with Michele Dix, MD for Crossrail 2. Free evening talk in London.

Thursday 17 October Transport for the South East public drop-in for draft Transport Strategy consultation, Woking.

Friday 18 October "Dealing with conflict." Lunchtime webinar.

Monday 21 October "The Future of Transport Debate: Rail vs Road." Free evening talk, London.

Monday 21 October Campaign for Better Transport, London group. Non-members welcome, Farringdon.

Monday 21 October Copy date for your campaign news/reports for London & SE branch Local Action column in December's *railwatch* no.162, and for December's *raise* no.146.

Send to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

Tuesday 22 October Transport for the South East public drop-in for draft Transport Strategy consultation, Canterbury.

Tuesday 22 October Chesham & District TUG.

Wednesday 23 October Transport for the South East public drop-in for draft Transport Strategy consultation, Brighton.

Thursday 24 October "Community energy: will it play a significant part of the future of our energy system?" Lunchtime webinar.

Thursday 24 October Transport for the South East public drop-in for draft Transport Strategy consultation, Southampton.

Friday 25 October Copy date for your campaign news, letters, articles, photos to appear in December's *railwatch* no.162. Send to editor@railwatch.org.uk

Tuesday 29 October "HYPED, HYPERLOOP II (The Flying Podsmen)." Free evening talk in Brighton.

Monday 4 November "Improving new train introduction: challenges and lessons learned." All-day seminar, London.

Monday 4 November "Leading and developing successful teams." Morning webinar.

Thursday 7 November Sussex & Coastway Division.

Monday 11 November "New technology does not mean that we can stop investing in new transport infrastructure." Evening talk in Reading, with guest speaker Michele Dix, MD for Crossrail 2.

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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