

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

## When will rail attract passengers?



Most rail users feel confident about travelling in safety, at 86%. Non-users still don't, at only 45% confidence. Source: Transport Focus [weekly Tracking Research](#).

Our "[Attracting passengers back to rail](#)" webinar in October was followed by "[The transport user COVID debate](#)" from Transport Focus in November.

"Getting passengers confident and back on board: Transport Focus's insight from the Covid months and thinking ahead." An evening webinar on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January with guest speaker Anthony Smith, Chief Executive of Transport Focus. See [Events](#).

"Transport User Voice" – the national watchdog's monthly newsletter. Click [here](#) to subscribe.



## [COVID-19 briefing to Railfuture members](#)

Stay abreast with Railfuture's web [articles](#) and [tweets](#).

## Here's a few we've prepared earlier

Railfuture likes TOFI: The Opportunities For Influence.

Click [Consultation responses](#) for recent submissions:  
\* Homes England's 10k-home / 10k-jobs development on land west of Ifield, Horsham, West Sussex  
\* East Sussex County Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan  
\* West Sussex County Council's Transport Plan Review survey

**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 has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-December edition no.30 of *inter-railse*, Railfuture London and the South East members have:-

- ~ joined in **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway and Herts & Beds Divisions.
- ~ participated in the **online** meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group on "Attracting people back to rail", including "How train fleets can keep pace with evolving passenger and operational demands."
- ~ participated in the London TravelWatch **webinar** on "The future of London's transport."
- ~ participated in the inaugural meeting, **online**, of SCRP's new North Downs Line (SWR) Steering Group.
- ~ participated in the first strategy workshop, **online**, for new sub-national transport body Transport East.
- ~ held a meeting of regional Branch committee **online**.

## What shall we be doing (remotely)?

- ~ drafting our responses to [public consultations](#):
  - \* Wealden District Council's Local Plan: *Direction of Travel*; closing on 18 January;
  - \* Greater Anglia's December 2021 GEML timetable, closing on 12 February.
- ~ contributing to SCRP's next North Downs Line (GWR) Steering Group's **online** meeting.
- ~ holding **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Eastern and Herts & Beds Divisions.
- ~ contributing to the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee's next **online** meeting.
- ~ contributing to SCRP's next Stakeholder Advisory Board **online** meeting.
- ~ participating in GTR's next Stakeholder Conference **online**.
- ~ participating in the **online** meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group on "Post-pandemic, should all rail projects be re-appraised?"
- ~ contributing in the second **online** workshop of TfSE's Outer Orbital Area Study Forum.
- ~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.

**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.

## Britain's Growing Railway in London and the South East: Happy January birthdays

~ on the 5<sup>th</sup>, in 1981, restoration of passenger services from Barking into Gospel Oak instead of Kentish Town, after a 55-year break - now with four, 4-car electric, tph!

~ on the 8<sup>th</sup>, in 1996, Ashford International became connected to the European high-speed network when Eurostar began serving the station, but withdrawal of services from Kent stations until at least 2022, due to the pandemic, meant no 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.



## Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

**Wednesday 6 January** "High Speed Two – update." House of Commons Transport Committee **online** oral evidence morning session.

**Wednesday 6 January** "Brighton Main Line Enhancement proposals." Evening **webinar**.

**Thursday 7 January** "Adverse weather and changes to drainage policy / management."

Free afternoon **webinar**.

**Thursday 7 January** Sussex & Coastway Division **online** evening meeting. Invite non-members!

**Monday 11 January** "Very light rail in Coventry and new railway stations in the Black Country." Evening **webinar**.

**Tuesday 12 January** "The Watford to St. Albans branch – past, present, and future."

Free **online** evening talk.

**Tuesday 12 January** "Metrolink: nine years delivering engineering challenges."

Free **online** evening technical lecture.

**Tuesday 12 January** "It's not a very certain future: reliance, emotion, and infrastructure change in an industrial town." Free **online** evening technical lecture.

**Wednesday 13 January** Eastern Division **online** evening meeting. Invite non-members!

**Wednesday 13 January** "Class 769 Flex – re-purposing rolling stock to meet industry demands." Free **online** evening technical lecture.

**Wednesday 13 January** "Class 230 variants." Free **online** evening technical lecture.

**Wednesday 13 January** "Indecision, decision, and counter-decision: a history of airports policy for London." Evening **webinar**.

**Thursday 14 January** "The road to zero-carbon transport in London."

Free **online** evening technical lecture.

**Monday 18-Thursday 21 January** "East West Mainline." England's Economic Heartland conference: four lunchtime, and one closing afternoon, **webinars**.

**Monday 18 January** "Trains for tourists." Evening **webinar**.

**Wednesday 20 January** "Mobility and decarbonisation: the opportunity for the rural economy." Morning **webinar**.

**Wednesday 20 January** "Getting passengers confident and back on board: Transport Focus's insight from the Covid months and thinking ahead." Evening **webinar**.

**Thursday 21 January** "Re-engineering Rail Freight." Free **online** evening technical lecture.

**Monday 25 January** "Places for Life: socially-productive places." Free lunchtime **webinar**.

**Tuesday 26 January** "Rail: a beginners' guide." Evening **webinar**.

**Thursday 28 January** "Roads vs Rail: reducing carbon emissions by 2030." Free lunchtime **webinar**.

**Thursday 28 January** "Is decarbonisation enough?" Free evening **webinar**.

**Thursday 28 January** "Station security information systems improvements." Free evening **webinar**.

**Saturday 30 January** Herts & Beds Division **online** morning meeting. Invite non-members!

**Saturday 17 April** London & South East regional branch **online** AGM. See the [branch page](#) to make committee nominations, due Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

DfT's [Transport Decarbonisation Plan](#) now due in 'Spring 2021'; email [TDP@dft.gov.uk](mailto:TDP@dft.gov.uk) for updates.

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

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*

Website: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) Twitter: [@RailfutureLSE](#)

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