

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

Railfuture responds to change

"All change for rail" was written by our national Chair Chris Page and Communications Director Neil Middleton and published immediately after July's general election. A month later, and after the King's Speech, our national Policy Director Ian Brown CBE published *"Agenda for growth"* which has begun to set the context for Railfuture's work over coming months.

Former Deputy Mayor for London Nicky Gavron

This month began with the sad news of the passing of one of London's most highly-regarded and influential politicians of the early GLA era; she withdrew in 2021.



Nicky Gavron – RIP

What shall we be doing this month?

London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, will be:-

~ continuing to take stock of the new government's agenda for change, and responding to consultations for e.g. [Autumn Budget 2024 / Spending Review 2025](#), revisions to the [National Planning Policy Framework](#).

~ attending [public drop-in events](#) for Kent County Council's consultation *"Striking the balance"* on its draft Local Transport Plan 5, closing Tuesday 8th October.

~ participating in Southeast CRP's North Downs Line AGM by Farnborough North station.

~ holding regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Herts & Beds and Eastern Divisions **online** and of our London Metro Division in-person.

~ holding a regular meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee

~ finalising our response to Medway Council's latest consultation preparing for its [draft Local Plan 2041](#), which closes on Sunday 8th September.

Our vision for Railfuture: *An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision makers come for advice, which rail users are proud to join and recommend.*

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-August edition of *inter-railse* no.74, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

~ attended public drop-in events for Medway Council's consultation in preparation for its [draft Local Plan 2041](#)

~ attended public drop-in events for Kent County Council's consultation *"Striking the balance"* on its [draft Local Transport Plan 5](#), closing Tuesday 8th October.

~ contributed to Network Rail's request for comments for a new East Sussex Coastway and MarshLink Strategic Study (not in study scope is Lewes-Uckfield).

~ run the regional branch's *"Bridge the gap"* campaign stall at the annual Lewes Societies Fair.



"Bridge the gap" in Lewes Town Hall (I'm sure our national Chair was overheard saying *"You want a Lewes-Uckfield rail link, madam? Then help us persuade Lewes District Council to plan for most of their long-term housing growth to go where I'm pointing on this map, somewhere between the two towns, and then we stand a far better chance of making it happen."*)

~ held a regular meeting of our Kent Division **online**.

~ held a regular meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, in-person at Eridge with a focus on improving our attractiveness for active members, old and new, and taking practical steps to that end.

Britain's Growing Railway in London & South East: September birthdays

~ 20th, in 2021 - Nine Elms, Battersea Power Station.

~ 27th, in 2009 - Imperial Wharf.

~ 28th, in 2003 - Channel Tunnel Rail Link phase one to Waterloo International (via Fawkham Junction and Southfleet Junction).

~ 28th, in 2008 - Shepherd's Bush (Overground - WLL).

~ 29th, in 1986 - London Fields (closed since 1981 fire).

~ 29th, in 1986 - Welham Green.

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.*

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Tuesday 3 September Medway Council public drop-in event for consultation on draft Local Plan 2041.

Wednesday 4 September Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

Wednesday 4 September Medway Council public drop-in event for consultation on draft Local Plan 2041.

Thursday 5 September Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

Thursday 5 September Sussex & Coastway Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 7 September Herts & Beds Division morning in-person meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Tuesday 10 September Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

Wednesday 11 September Eastern Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Friday 13 September Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

Thursday 19 September Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

Thursday 19 September London Metro Division evening in-person meeting, central London. Guest speaker: George Paterson, Senior Stakeholder Engagement Manager, South Eastern Railway, on Metro and Suburban services. [Invite non-members!](#)

Friday 20 September Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

Tuesday 24 September Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

Wednesday 25 September Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

Thursday 26 September Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

Monday 30 September Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

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

Railfuture is 'in the news' / 'making the news' / sharing 'news and views'

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture members making, not just watching, things happen in our website [media extracts](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture making, not just reporting, the news through our [press releases](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture's and others' reports and thoughts published in our [website articles](#).

~ Railfuture is active on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [LinkedIn](#).

Railfuture publications by email

~ All members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – are being encouraged to receive [Railwatch](#) direct to their Inbox immediately on publication by logging-in at [Member services](#).

~ All members receive Railfuture's regular monthly newsletter [Rail User Express](#) and occasional [Rail Action](#) bulletin direct to their Inbox upon publication.

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

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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