

Destination Okehampton – Council Working Group

Notes of meeting held on 4th May 2016 at the Conservative Club, Okehampton

19.00 –

1. Present : Kevin Ball, Chris Bligh, Jan Goffey, Michael Ireland Maureen MacDonald, Paul Vachon, Richard Proctor, Tony Leech, Paul Voaden
2. Apologies: Steve Blood, Mike Davies, Anne Johnson & Derek Webber.
3. Notes of the last meeting were approved
4. Matters arising from the notes [not already on the agenda]

Chris Bligh did not give a report under Section 7 of the notes from 31st March.

Denbrook Windfarm. It does not look as if there will be a problem as far as *Network Rail* are concerned with the location of the turbines within close proximity to the track.

5. Correspondence received. A reply from Mel Stride [MP Central Devon] and Claire Perry [MP Under Secretary of State] who has asked the Peninsula Rail Task Force to make recommendations to 2024. The report is expected in June and will be considered together with the report from Sir Peter Hendy. Chris Bligh thinks that Hendy will recommend not spending more money; but that this route [Northern] may have value. Great Western are apparently keen on the idea of a line as a slow line [60 mph]. So we may have to accept that trains maybe 10 minutes slower than expected, 'better a slow line than no line'.

It was felt that much depended on the availability of 106 money.

7. Maureen MacDonald gave a presentation on 'Pride in our Town'. She was shocked by the state of the housing estate where she lives, with dog mess, bag of rubbish etc.

Tony Leech asked 'Could the rubbish be classed as fly tipping? Kevin Ball added that the County [DCC] had withdrawn from dealing with weeds. It was suggested that Ex-offenders could be procured as part of the *Community Pay back scheme*, to combat this problem.

ACTION : Keven Ball is to investigate this, to include spraying weeds.

Paul Vachon is investigating the setting up of a CIC and will report back at the next meeting.

ACTION: Okehampton – Exeter rail steering group minutes to be circulated [MI]. Michael Ireland gave a summary of the meeting. The name of the group is now *OkeRail*. On the 20th May representatives of OkeRail will meet two members of the bid team from Stagecoach to present the case for investment in the Okehampton to Exeter rail service.

Richard Proctor will present a summary of the Sunday rail service to the next meeting of OkeRail on the 9th June 2016. Richard was thanked for all his hard work conducting a passenger survey.

8. Chris Bligh presented figures for projected revenue for the line.

Paul Vachon mentioned the importance of making sur that OkeXRail is not used on any websites and the new name is adopted.

The possibility of a 'park and ride' scheme for Ten Tors was discussed.

9. OkeRail CIC has been set up with the following Directors:

Chris Bligh, Michael Ireland, Christine Marsh and Bob Rush

Jan Goffey commented that there needs to be a prospectus and business plan for OkeRail CIC.

10. Launch of the Sunday Rover 15th May 2016.

First train of the season to arrive at 0952 and met by Civic party. Councillor Ball will arrive from Exeter on the first train. He has also arrange for a camera crew [Dan Rose]to flim the event. The OkeRail banner will be unveiled and attached to the train as promotion [at Exeter St Davids]. Thanks to Paul Vachon and Bob Rush for the preparation of the logo and banner.

ACTIONS.

Richard Searight [PRG] to be asked about the website.

James Bird photographer for the Okehampton Times to attend

Tom French to be contacted by Maureen MacDonald

Claire Gladstone to contact Kirk England

Paul Vachon to order lanyards.

Richard Proctor asked about the official response to the OkeRail terms of Reference regarding the 2017 deadline. When conducting the passenger survey he will introduce himself as a representative of OkeRail.

11. Publicity for the Sunday trains is going well. Thanks expressed to Tony Leech's son Gavin for producing the leaflets. GWR leaflets are being prepared for the 'incoming trains' to bring people into Okehampton, rather than just taking them out. The leaflet deliveries are going well.

ACTIONS: Kevin Ball to leaflet de Brion Heights and Claire Gladstone to cover Hatherleigh. Noted that Sampford Courtney must be covered.

Chris Bligh informed the meeting about the cost of having a 2 coach train, but cautioned that we may need it as the train could be full with only 1 unit. According to Kevin Ball this issue is being pursued with DCC & GWR.

It was noted that South West Trains had asked why they weren't asked to quote for the provision of the Sunday Rover 2016.

12. Derek Weber to meet Sue Wonnacott about the provision of a community bus for the Hatherleigh - Okehampton Rail Link.

Claire Gladstone to ask Hatherleigh Town Council to write in support of the community bus link for the Sunday Rover.

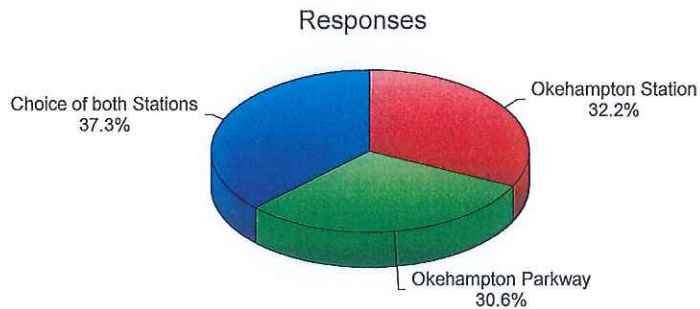
13. Reported that the PRTF draft report was on line from the 6th May for six weeks for public comment.

Date of the next meeting: 22nd June 2016 at the Okehampton Conservative Club.

Meeting close at 20.40 hours.

The first part of the document is a preface, which is written in a very formal and dignified style. It sets the tone for the entire work and provides a clear overview of the author's intentions and the scope of the study. The preface is followed by a series of chapters, each of which is carefully structured and well-organized. The author's writing is clear, concise, and easy to read, making the complex subject matter accessible to a wide range of readers. The document is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the field of study, and it is a pleasure to read and learn from it.

OKEHAMPTON STATIONS - PROPOSALS AND PUBLIC PREFERENCES



Respondents were asked, 'Where would you prefer to catch the train?' They were given a choice of one of three responses, the original Okehampton station, a new Okehampton Parkway or a choice of using both station.

It is worth noting that the previous owners of *Dartmoor Railway* had carried out some basic research in the

form of a petition collecting 400 signatures. Their proposal was to have a Parkway station with,

'A min. 200 parking spaces. It would be easy reach from A30 being on the East of Okehampton and allow the whole area to use this facility. It also makes it easier to attract commuters and shoppers living, North, South and West of Okehampton. Minimum parking would be available at the existing station to meet some needs of Okehampton People'. (Source: Halwill Parish Clerk).

This proposal currently has strong support in Okehampton (OTC Rail Survey 2009) and is seen as part of a much needed integrated traffic management plan for the town.

Proposal from Dartmoor Railway [BARS]

At a meeting of OkeRail on 9th June 2016 the following proposal was put forward by Dartmoor Railway regarding the future terminus rail services to Okehampton.

"Alistair Gregory proposed Okehampton East as the terminus for new services with options to go through to Okehampton town station and potentially Meldon [for eventual services to Tavistock and Plymouth]" Minute 5/16

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Destination Okehampton – 22nd June 2016

Notes of the meeting held at the Conservative Club 22nd June at 1900 hours

Present: Richard Proctor, Derek Webber, Brian Finch, Jan Goffey, Chris Bligh, Bob Rush, Richard Searight, Paul Vachon, Claire Gladstone [Secretary] Sue Baxter, Tom Baxter, Michael Ireland [Chair] Ann Johnson, Tony Leech and Maureen MacDonald.

Apologies: Peter Moores, Mike Davies & Kevin Ball.

Welcome by the Chair

Notes of the last meeting

Under matters of accuracy it was noted that Sue Baxter and Brian Finch had sent their apologies.

Matters arising not already on the agenda

Reported that the Peninsula Rail Task Forces report has been delayed

Maureen MacDonald to submit article about the weeds

Richard Searight showed the meeting the new web site for OkeRail
okerrail2day.uk

No news on the Community Payback Scheme.

The OkeRail Banner was seen disappearing into the kitchen of the Station Buffet. Action: Tom Baxter to make enquiries as to its whereabouts.

Marketing the Town

Paul Vachon presented a marketing plan to promote Okehampton. The idea is to get a company to promote Okehampton, with income generated by grants and through the website and merchandising. The initiative is intended to be self funding. The aim is to encourage public awareness and support for businesses.

Method to develop Okehampton as a brand

Report from OkeRail Forum 9th June

The Chair summarized the notes of OkeRail meeting with the primary matter of concern being the proposal from Dartmoor Railway [5/16]. Okehampton Rail Terminus.

A discussion took place regarding the proposal put forward at the OkeRail meeting. The following proposal was put to the meeting:

“That Okehampton East will become a station and NOT a Terminus. The Terminus will remain at the original station, with the support of the DRSA [Heritage Service]. Okehampton East should be defined as a *‘Park & Ride’* station.

To be put to OTC as an agenda item for approval. Vote. All in favour.

OkeRail CIC

Bob Rush outline the mission of OkeRail CIC to the meeting as follows:

Sunday Rover 2016 – Passenger Survey

Richard Proctor provided an excellent summary of passenger usage for the period [Sunday’s] 15th May to 19th June. A data sheet was circulated to attendees at the meeting.

Presentation to First Group 17th June

Michael Ireland outlined the presentation given to First Group, Stakeholder Lead, Mark Wilkins.

Hatherleigh – Okehampton Rail Link. It was agreed that Richard, Claire and Derek would discuss arrangements for the bus link on Sunday 14th August after the meeting. The aim was to advertise the service the *Parish Pump* magazine.

ANOB It was suggested that a special train is chartered to promote the work of the Groups trying to secure the opening of the Okehampton to Exeter line; namely OkeRail and associated Councils and organizations. The idea was to have named train *‘Royal Oke’* to run to London Paddington for Christmas shopping.

Date of Next Meeting : 28th July 2016, 1900 hours, Conservative Club, Okehampton. Dr Michael Ireland Saturday, July 16, 2016