



Mk 5s in the early morning sun: No 92018 approaches Cheddington on 2 August 2019 with the Lowlander sleeper service bound for Euston. Alan Wallwork

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR SLEEPERS

CALEDONIAN SLEEPER

has submitted a performance improvement plan (PIP) to the Scottish Government. The overnight service has faced challenges with the introduction of its new Mk 5 coaches built by CAF; entry into service of the

Mk 5s was delayed, with the Lowlander service switching to the new stock in April and the Highlander in October.

The areas the PIP focuses on are:

- Network Rail infrastructure availability;
- locomotive reliability;

- Mk 5 coach technical issues;
- complex shunting logistics.

On 11 December, Ryan Flaherty, Serco's Managing Director at Caledonian Sleeper, said: 'By working closely with Transport Scotland and industry partners

we have already implemented many required corrections and are confident that the Performance Improvement Plan will address additional concerns. This was implemented three weeks ago and we are already seeing the benefits in relation to improved performance.'

WELBORNE HALT PROMOTED BY RAILFUTURE

RAILFUTURE IS promoting the provision of a new station at Welborne, to serve a new 6,000-home garden village.

The station would be located on the line between Fareham and Eastleigh. In October Fareham Borough Council granted outline planning permission

for the development, subject to a Section 106 agreement which includes safeguarding a site for the station.

The line past the proposed site is currently single track, with a single platform halt proposed. There is provision to expand to add a second platform if

the line is doubled in future. Railfuture believes a bus service alone will be insufficient to serve the site and is promoting the concept of a 'Welborne Rail Consortium' to make the new station a reality. It hopes the station could be served by the hourly South Western Railway

service linking Portsmouth and London Waterloo via Eastleigh.

As well as the new dwellings the planning application proposes the creation of a district centre, village centre, commercial, employment and warehousing space, a nursery, health centre, vets, four schools and assorted green infrastructure.

WORCESTERSHIRE PARKWAY OPENING DELAYED

THE OPENING of the new Worcestershire Parkway station has been delayed until the New Year, having originally been scheduled to take place with the timetable change on 15 December.

The station is located at the intersection of the Cotswold line and the Birmingham to Cheltenham route, and will

be served by Great Western Railway and CrossCountry. In early December both operators' websites confirmed the delay, with final sign-off of the testing and commissioning process yet to be achieved. GWR, which will be the station operator, said: 'After careful consideration, and in agreement with Worcestershire County Council, Worcestershire

Parkway will now open early in the New Year. We will confirm the specific date as soon as we can.'

The county council has led the project to deliver the station, with Buckingham Group the lead contractor. The station will have a single platform for GWR's Cotswold line services, while CrossCountry's Cardiff to Nottingham services will call

at a pair of platforms on the Birmingham to Cheltenham line.

Two stations were due to open on 15 December (after this issue went to press):

- Warrington West, on the Cheshire Lines Committee (CLC) route between Liverpool and Manchester; and
- Robroyston, on the Glasgow to Cumbernauld line in Scotland.