

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 20th 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 5th, 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 8th, 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 25th 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 20th January.

DfT's [Transport Decarbonisation Plan](#) now due in 'Spring 2021'; email 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

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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