

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

Your tickets and railcards, please!

"Proposals to update the railway for how passengers use it today" OR "Customer-focused stations" – OR we're going to close most of your ticket offices!



"More than 150 railway station ticket offices are proposed for closure in London, it can be revealed. In London, Govia Thameslink Railway are proposing the closure of some 65 (not Victoria or Blackfriars), with Southeastern suggesting the closure of a further 40, and Southwestern Railway another 35." Evening Standard. Plus c2c five, Greater Anglia three, GWR two plus Paddington; also Euston and St. Pancras.

After weeks if not months of increasingly well-informed speculation, [consultations](#) were launched on 5th July initially for a mere three-week period. After a summer of discontent, however, the period was extended by over a month to Friday 1st September. Our multi-hatted Neil Middleton has co-ordinated our national response (see [2-page Summary](#)), which can be found in all of the usual areas of our website. Individual members of Railfuture are still being encouraged to submit their own private and personal responses, but strictly in that capacity – as individual citizens and without any reference to Railfuture, to avoid any risk of confusion or dilution of our 'single voice' official response.

What else has @RailfutureLSE done?

Since the early-July edition of *inter-railse* no.61, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

~ organised the national AGM, and presentation of the [9th Rail User Group Awards](#), on Saturday 15th July, in the University of London's Senate House.



Ten Awards and four commendations were presented by our Hon. President Christian Wolmar.



~ noted that the Planning Inspectorate received an application on 6 July from Gatwick Airport Ltd (with a new logo, above!) for a Development Consent Order for their controversial Northern Runway proposals.

~ held a regular meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, in-person to prepare for the national AGM.

~ noted that Lewes District Council has adopted a revised Local Development Scheme for its new Local Plan. The next consultation – on 'Preferred Options' – will be this autumn ie September-November.

~ represented Railfuture in SCRP's MarshLink, Tonbridge-Redhill-Reigate, and North Downs Line Steering Groups, and the Stakeholder Advisory Board.

~ represented Railfuture in a second workshop for stakeholders finalising Network Rail's Southern Region / Kent and Sussex Routes' study for Kent-Gatwick Strategic Advice on rail connectivity.

~ joined meetings of our Eastern, Herts & Beds and Sussex & Coastway Divisions, all [online](#).

~ enjoyed the opening of Kent's first new station in eight years at [Thanet Parkway](#) (in 2015, Rochester!) With access off the A299 it's near Manston airfield and right by Cliffsend, Pegwell Bay, the old Ramsgate Hovercraft Port, not to mention the Viking ship 'Hugin'!

What shall we be doing this month?

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

~ holding a regular quarterly meeting of our Kent Division (in-person or [online](#) tbc).

~ holding a regular meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, [online](#).

~ considering our response to GTR / Southern's proposals for changes to the [West Coastway timetable](#).

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.

Britain's Growing Railway in London & the South East: August birthday

~ on the 12th (after a 'soft opening' to passengers on 25th July) the official opening of London Overground's Hackney Interchange walkway, in 2015.



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

Thursday 3 August ORR publish TOC Key Statistics 2022/23 - annual summary of key statistics for each passenger train operating company covering passenger usage, performance and complaints alongside reference data on number of employees, route kilometres operated and number of stations managed.

Friday 11 August ORR publish Passenger rail performance: P-coded train cancellations (ie changes to train services caused by non-availability of staff or rolling stock) data for Period 4, 25 June – 22 July.

Saturday 19 August Kent Division afternoon meeting.

Friday 25 August Copy date for your campaign news / reports for the London & South East regional branch Local Action column in October's *railwatch* no.177, and for September's *railese* no.161. Send to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

Tuesday 29 August Copy date for your campaign news, letters, articles, photos to appear in October's *railwatch* no.177. Send to editor@railwatch.org.uk

Thursday 31 August Close of Office of Rail & Road consultation on their 'draft determination' of Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan for Control Period 7, 2024-29.

Friday 1 September New date for Transport Focus / London TravelWatch close of consultations on "Proposals to update the railway for how passengers use it today" / "Customer-Focused stations."

Saturday 2 September Railfuture's "Bridge the gap" campaign stall at Lewes Societies Fair.

Thursday 7 September Sussex & Coastway Division afternoon meeting, in-person. [Invite non-members!](#)

Tuesday 12 September Herts & Beds Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

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](#).

Be in it to win it - join Railfuture's Lottery!

Members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – can support Railfuture by joining our monthly [lottery](#).

Railfuture publications by email

~ 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](#).

~ receive Railfuture's regular monthly newsletter [Rail User Express](#) direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk

~ receive Railfuture's occasional [Rail Action](#) bulletin direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk

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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