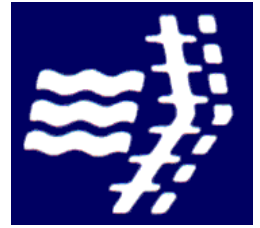


# MARLOW - MAIDENHEAD PASSENGERS' ASSOCIATION

## Chiltern Newsletter October 2015



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*MMPA covers transport aspects in Maidenhead - Marlow, Taplow and High Wycombe*

### Contact MMPA

If you have any issues or comments regarding public transport in the area that you would like to raise please use the *Contact Us* links on the MMPA website [www.mmpa.org.uk](http://www.mmpa.org.uk).

The MMPA contact for High Wycombe and Chiltern issues is Mike Cooper on 01494562052 or email [mwcoop@gmail.com](mailto:mwcoop@gmail.com)

### New Oxford Service

On 26th October Chiltern Railways will commence the operation of services between Oxford Parkway and London Marylebone. This new line will bring significant economic benefits to those living along the route, and represent a major milestone in the development of your train service.

The £320 million project, which was made possible thanks to a £130 million investment from Chiltern has been a long time in the making and will be the first new rail link between a major British city and London in over 100 years. First conceived in 2002 and finally approved in 2013, construction started just 18 months ago. Since that time an army of rail workers have transformed the old 20-40 mph branch line into a 100 mph main line and created new travel options for Oxfordshire residents that are expected to deliver significant economic benefits to the region.

- Two brand new stations have been constructed. Oxford Parkway at the site of Water Eaton Park and Ride and Bicester Village station close to the previous Bicester Town site. Station structures are complete with interior works well underway and platforms now in situ.
- Islip station has been rebuilt.
- 8 ½ miles of track has been laid. Previously single track and with a 40 mph speed limit, there are now two tracks and trains can run at 100 mph.
- A ¾ mile "chord" has been constructed through a field in Bicester to join the Bicester to Oxford track to the Chiltern Mainline and allow trains to travel to London Marylebone.

In order to seek your views on what the train service for the new line should look like, Chiltern held a timetable consultation between 12th September and 7th November 2014. Chiltern received over 200 replies, and would like to thank everyone who responded.

Since the consultation period closed each reply has been considered carefully. Many constructive suggestions have been submitted, a number of which have now now been incorporated. The latest draft timetables can be found in the pdf documents at <http://www.chilternrailways.co.uk/news/october-2015-timetable-preview>.

The Oxford Parkway timetable is a significant timetable change, and as such you are invited to familiarise yourself with the latest version of the timetable. Please note that whilst the general structure of the timetable is now finalised, some of the specific times are still subject to confirmation. In addition,

the timetable still requires regulatory approval."

Once open, there will be two new fast trains per hour throughout the day between Oxford Parkway and Bicester Village station and London with journey times of around an hour to the capital.

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### Changes at High Wycombe

The Chiltern Railways Oxford Parkway to London Marylebone line will open on Monday 26th October. This will also bring the opening of Bicester Village station, which will provide Bicester with more trains to London in addition to those currently running from Bicester North. A bus link from Oxford Parkway to Oxford centre will be available. Services to Oxford (main) Station should commence in March 2016.

In order to meet the requirements for increased passengers and support nine car train operation at High Wycombe, the down platform has been extended. The benefits to passengers are increased capacity with longer trains. In order to do this, the existing subway has been closed, as its land take has been incorporated for the longer platform. The subway will be replaced by a footbridge and lifts, meaning the station will be fully Disability Discrimination Act compliant. The subway is now closed and a temporary footbridge constructed. However the temporary bridge will not have lifts and those with accessibility needs will be offered a complimentary shuttle service between platforms 2 and 3. The permanent footbridge should be ready at the end of the year.

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### East West Rail Link

East West Rail (EWR) aims to establish a railway link between East Anglia with central and western England. Currently proposals for Phase 2 to connect Bedford and Bicester and Milton Keynes to Princes Risborough are out for consultation. Phase 1 is the work currently being carried out to connect Bicester and Oxford.

If you would like to see and comment on the proposals they can be seen on the web site at [www.networkrail.co.uk/east-west-rail](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/east-west-rail) or email [ewrconsultation@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:ewrconsultation@networkrail.co.uk) or phone 03457114141 for more information.

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### TRAVEL INFORMATION

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| BBC Radio          | 95.4, 104.1 FM, DAB,   |
| Berkshire:         | or 08459 - 311333  |
| National Rail      | 08457 - 484950 (24 hrs) or   |
| enquiries:         | <a href="http://www.nationalrail.co.uk">www.nationalrail.co.uk</a> or text |
| First Great        | 08457-000125 (0700-2200 daily)   |
| Western:           |  |
| Chiltern Railways: | 08456 - 005165 (08.30 - 17.30)   |
| Arriva Bus:        | 0844 8004411 (0900 - 1700 Mon - Fri)                                       |
| First Berks Buses: | 01753 524144   |
| Carousel Buses:    | 01494 533436   |
| Traveline:         | 0871 2002233 (0700 - 2200 ) 10p/min  |
|                    | on BT landline   |
| RBWM helpline      | 01628 796666   |

Also see our web site [www.mmpa.org.uk](http://www.mmpa.org.uk) for links.

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