

MARLOW - MAIDENHEAD PASSENGER ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Number 158

May 2013



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MMPA covers transport aspects in Maidenhead - Marlow, High Wycombe and Twyford - Henley-on-Thames.

Summer Timetables

Included with this newsletter are the appropriate Summer timetables for your area effective from 19 May.

Annual General Meeting

The Chairman welcomed to the AGM the representatives from Crossrail, First Great Western, Chiltern Railways and the bus companies who had given up their Friday evenings to be present. After the AGM business several presentations were made before opening to questions from the floor.

John Goldsmith, Crossrail Area Community Relations Manager explained the overall plan for the Crossrail project with examples of some new stations being constructed, an overview of the tunnelling routes and machines and details of the new dive-under being constructed at Hayes. He then gave more detail specifically about the implications for Maidenhead, its station and journey times to various points on the line. Maidenhead is scheduled to receive its full service of four trains per hour in the rush hour from the end of 2019. Of general interest was that each new train would consist of 10 coaches, be capable of holding 1500 people in a mix of layouts and be 205 metres long, effectively stretching between two of the existing central area underground stations and requiring station exits at each end of the train. In the peak in the central area 24 trains per hour would run.

Andy Penrose (FGW Performance Manager) majored on two subjects: punctuality performance over the past 12 months and the redevelopment of Reading station.

On performance he showed graphs illustrating the sharp dip in punctuality in November and December which had been caused by the adverse weather conditions at that time, particularly serious flooding outside Oxford. There had subsequently been a good recovery to acceptable levels in February and March. He referred to the difficulties caused by the semi-fast Oxford services where they have to switch from main to relief lines on their journey: any delays were reflected on both sets of lines. On the Reading situation he explained the work to be done over Easter and the closures being required, with diversions for South Wales and Bristol trains via Banbury and buses between Slough and Hayes. A small consolation was that the branches are largely unaffected directly. He also showed stages in the redevelopment and the new concourse and over-bridge, which will open after the Easter possession.

Chad Collins (Chiltern Head of Stations) gave some figures for the growth in traffic over the recent past. As an example this was 77% on the main Birmingham to London sector which benefited from the introduction of locomotive hauled refurbished Mk3 coaches with plug doors and free Wifi (which, he gleefully pointed out, Virgin did not). He spent some time commenting on over-crowding levels in the peaks, with the morning typically being worse than the evening. Measures that they had taken had now improved the situation so that they were within their contractually specified limits.

On Bicester – Oxford re-opening there was little new to say. The Court was about to consider the objection from one person which was holding the project up.

Copies of all slides from these presentations will be available on the Association website.

Phil Kirk, (Managing Director Oxford Buses) explained that his company had taken over Carousel and had replaced 90% of the

fleet which it had acquired over the past 12 months. He was aware of several issues concerning the train/bus co-ordination and hoped to work with us to improve the situation.

Assistance needed

MMPA is still seeking assistance with the operation of the Association. In particular we seek:

- A General Secretary
- People to monitor planning applications in the area and advise MMPA of any that might impact the alignment of the line between Bourne End and High Wycombe.
- A volunteer to keep our social networking sites updated
- Representatives from the commuting community who can provide updates and feedback on their travel experiences and issues.
- A representative to monitor and report issues with Furze Platt Station.

Please contact us at secretary@mmpa.org.uk for more information if you are willing to help out in one of these ways.

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Bus – train connections

A meeting with Arriva is to be set up to resolve the current discrepancy between the Branch train timetable and the Arriva bus times. A sub-group of the MMPA Committee has been formed to focus on this and plan and set up the interaction with the bus company.

Membership Matters

Thank you for all your renewals and donations. There are still a few renewals outstanding so reminders will be enclosed for them. If you get a reminder and think you've paid please let me know the details.

Cheques should be payable to "MMPA" and sent to MMPA Membership, 23 Switchback Road North, Maidenhead SL6 7UF. If you wish to pay by internet banking please use sort code 60-14-12 and account number 72748745, plus your MMPA membership number as the reference. Please also email me so that I know you've paid.

Data Protection Act - members' names and addresses, including email addresses if applicable, are held on a database and we will not pass them to third parties unless we are required to do so by law.

Richard Porter, membership@mmpa.org.uk

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TRAVEL INFORMATION

BBC Radio Berkshire:	95.4, 104.1 FM, DAB, or 311333	08459 -
National Rail enquiries:	08457 - 484950 (24 hrs) or www.nationalrail.co.uk or text	
First Great Western:	08457-000125 (0700–2200 daily)	
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 for links.

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.