

NEWSLETTER

September 2026
Number 201

Marlow Maidenhead Passenger Association



MMPA AGM

The MMPA AGM was held in May and presentation made by GWR Station Manager for GWR stations Paddington – Reading followed by questions.

Issues outlined:

- Drop off/ pick up area Maidenhead Station amended
- Flooding in underground tunnels at Maidenhead Station – solution affected by lack of funding. Water from platform canopies runs into the tunnels. Water then affects lift operations. Maidenhead MP to put pressure on Transport Secretary to fund a solution
- Lack of signage on Platform 3 Maidenhead Station. He will get the matter sorted within 6-8 weeks (see overleaf)
- Gap between train and platform at Maidenhead Station - problem acknowledged. Possibility of 'warning' signs on Platforms. Office of Rail Regulator had visited to assess issue (Current situation breaks their own rules!). The solution is in the hands of Network Rail. High on the agenda! May be a possibility of 'humps' at doors to mitigate the situation in the short term.
- Use of Platform 1 at Maidenhead Station – only used during works on Platform 3 which are now complete. Platform 1 will now not be used except in emergency situations
- Puddling at Bourne End platform being looked at and funding awaited
- Relocation of timetables at Cookham to be looked at

Chiltern Railways presentation

- Commented on seating in new trains -seats do not align with windows.
- Timetable change December 2026 introduction of £20.00 First Class upgrade anywhere/any train.
- Chiltern has the oldest fleet.
- Class 168 undergoing refurbishment
- Explorer Silver set used on London to Birmingham services

The representative was asked what changes could be expected when Chiltern taken in Public Ownership – he could say very little as talks between current Company and Government ongoing.

Association Name Change

A motion was proposed and passed at the AGM to include Taplow in the Association name. Thus the name will be Marlow Maidenhead Taplow Passengers Association (MMTPA). This will require a modification to the Constitution but I believe we can minimise changes by continuing as MMPA also operating as MMTPA.

Maidenhead Station Board

Maidenhead Station Board (MSB) set up by MP Josh Reynolds, met in July. Attendees included TfL, GWR, RBWM and MMPA. Items discussed appear throughout the newsletter.

At the July meeting, Josh Reynolds took action to write to the Government stressing the need for funding for improvements to Maidenhead Station to ensure it is fit for purpose as a significant interchange. In the letter he said "Maidenhead is a busy and growing interchange between Great Western Main Line and Elizabeth Line services and an important gateway for commuters and businesses across the Thames Valley."

The Maidenhead Advertiser reports that Lord Hendy Minister of State for Rail responded saying "Longer term refurbishment works at Maidenhead Station cannot be undertaken until essential repairs to the station canopy, for which Network Rail is responsible, have been completed." This is understood to be in spring 2027.

The MP will now question the budget for the design of the ticket hall upgrade which wasn't addressed in the Minister's response.

Heatwave Disruption

Rail travellers at Maidenhead will have been aware of disruption to rail services over much of the spring and summer by prolonged periods of high temperatures. To minimise disruption TfL services were given priority at times over GWR services to reduce risks particularly of points failure.

This was discussed at Maidenhead Station Board and issues noted with communication between TfL GWR and Maidenhead Station staff which will be addressed.

Elizabeth Line

TfL have procured new trains which will allow services on the central section between Paddington and Abbey Wood to increase from 24 trains per hour to 28 from May 2027. Enhancements on the western section, (including Taplow with the possibility of an increase to four trains per hour) and towards Heathrow, including Terminal 5, remain dependent on agreement with Network Rail.

TfL have been asked whether further Elizabeth Line services could run after midnight on Friday and Saturday evenings. This depends both on demonstrated demand and on Network Rail engineering possessions. TfL have agreed to monitor demand.

GWR and Network Rail

- GWR planning to replace diesel stock possibly with battery trains including the Branch.
- GWR are mindful of the platform train gap and looking into how the problem can be eased.
- Outline drainage plans for the station will be developed into detail design next year and funding is available to implement.
- Modification to the station forecourt layout to facilitate pick up and drop off is proving successful. ANPR cameras will be installed this autumn to enable the 20 minutes time limit to be enforced.
- Dolphin junction (east of Slough) to be upgraded next year requiring some short term closures

Development of the new station at Old Oak Common serving HS2 will require line closures in November and December.

New MMPA Web site

The MMPA web site has been maintained for many years by Richard Porter. He has now retired and we thank him for his efforts with this and with the preparation of the newsletters. We are now having to upgrade the web site to conform to modern software. Work is in progress and it is hoped to release the web address soon. It will be based on the new Association name but will still be accessible through the MMPA label.

Maidenhead station

The passage from the new London end stairs at platform 3 now has direction and information signs installed as promised by GWR at the AGM.



Nationalisation

Chiltern Railway will become part of Great British Railways in September when it is nationalised. GWR follows at the end of the year in December. We do not know the impact this will have but we believe there will be no noticeable change initially with the same staff continuing in place. However we do expect a period of inactivity while the major issues are sorted out.

Cookham

Our pressure on GWR to place their timetables to where they can be seen on approach to the station instead of located at obscure part of the platform as in right hand photo has not yet been successful.



This was raised at the AGM and a review promised.

Furze Platt

The provision of cycle hoops at Furze Platt has been raised a number of times and not provided on the basis of the claimed lack of CCTV coverage. This is incorrect and we have appraised GWR of this have pointed out to GWR that there are cameras at the station

Timetables

Links below are to web pages for routes and times for GWR, Elizabeth Line and buses in Maidenhead area.

GWR web page is at:

<https://www.gwr.com/travel-information/train-times>

where timetable T10 stopping services from Maidenhead and T12 for Marlow Branch are posted

Elizabeth Line web page at:

<https://content.tfl.gov.uk/elizabeth-line-17-may-12-december-2026.pdf>

gives times in PDF format.

Buses

RBWM web page at:

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/public-transport/bus-routes>

where routes and times of buses round the Maidenhead may be found.

Newsletter compiled by Rob Latham.