

“ONTRACK”

WALTON-ON-NAZE, FRINTON-ON-SEA, KIRBY X & THORPE-LE-SOKEN RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009

GENERAL MATTERS

- **Re-signalling:** The current re-signalling work is now nearing completion with the remaining gated level crossings converted to barriers. At Frinton level crossing the barriers came into use on 5th May (with at least one hiccup during that week) following the second two-week closure of the line between Thorpe-le-Soken and Walton-on-Naze. However the five-week closure of the line between Thorpe-le-Soken and Clacton (for remodelling of the track layout and platform lengthening at Clacton station) has been postponed for around five years.
- **Security:** Following pressure from “ONTRACK” and branch Arlesford Rail Users, NXEA has implemented combined teams of British Transport Police, Revenue Protection Officers and Security Staff to regularly ride the trains and impose checks also at key stations. This has been successful, it is understood, in reducing fare evasion and the anti-social element, and similar initiatives are now to be rolled out on the Metro services and the West Anglia routes.

TIMETABLES

- **General:** There have been only minor changes to weekday timetables over the past year. Existing timetables remain unsatisfactory and there is on-going lobbying to address problems with connections, frequencies, and late evening and Sunday services; meetings with NXEA have indicated that any timetable changes will be deferred until after the re-signalling work is complete.
- **Off-peak ticket restrictions:** The issue of the negative impact of the current restrictions on the use of off-peak returns has been raised with NXEA. Current policy prevents travel home between 4 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. from London Liverpool Street and Stratford East London.
- **Future timetable planning:** Following the train planning meeting with NXEA (see below), a submission has been made to NXEA which shows a possible off-peak pattern for services on the Clacton and Walton lines. This pattern gives a minimum of a half-hourly service at all stations and also makes allowance for additional peak-hour services as well as occasional excursion and engineering trains.

STUDIES & REPORTS

The Association has responded to the following:

- Tendring District Council Local Development Framework “Core Strategy Discussion Document”, March 2009 (to cover the period 2011-26).

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS, ETC.

- NXEA/Network Rail Feedback meeting with Jackie Gibbs, Mark Tye and Garry England, Colchester North Station, 27th August, 2008.
- Visit to Liverpool Street Network Rail / NXEA Joint Route Control Centre, 8th October, 2008,
- Visit to Colchester Signal Control Centre (Power Box), 10th November, 2008.
- Visit to Liverpool Street Station, Station Control Office 14th January, 2009
- Essex County Council Rail Seminar, Chelmsford, 16th January, 2009.
- NXEA Train Planning meeting with Jackie Gibbs, Dave Hepper & Rachel Paget, 29th January 2009.
- Tendring Healthcare Provision (re access to healthcare facilities), 25th February 2009.
- Passenger Focus Annual Conference, 22nd April 2009.
- Due to illness and other circumstances outside of our control no one was able to attend ERUF meeting with the NXEA Chief Executive

- NXEA User Group Forum, 28th April 2009.
- The regular quarterly meetings of Tendring District Council Transport Forum have not been taking place.
- Meetings of the Sunshine Coast Line Action Group similarly have not been taking place due pending appointment of a new CRP Officer by Essex County Council.
- Ontrack has been represented at ERUF meetings.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

- **Website:** The Association has commissioned a website to provide information to rail users, to help publicise services on the Colchester to Clacton and Walton lines and to raise the profile of the Association. The URL is www.ontrackrailusers.org.uk and should be up and running by the date of the 2009 AGM.
- **Newspapers:** There has been regular coverage by the local Gazette/ regional newspapers (file copies available on table for inspection).
- **LIFE:** The Association is included in the Essex Library 'Local Information For Essex' databases.

SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

- **Frinton Property & Finance (FPC) and Chamber of Commerce and Trade have also printed copies of Newsletter in the past and provide reprographic facilities.** We are very grateful to David Foster of FPC for co-ordinating this and providing support.
- **We are also grateful for ROL Ltd for printing of newsletters and their ongoing support of future projects.**

A. C. Baxter, Acting Hon. Sec.