

# “ONTRACK” RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

WALTON ON THE NAZE, FRINTON ON SEA KIRBY CROSS & THORPE LE SOKEN RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION  
CAMPAIGNING FOR TRANSPORT USERS AND BETTER TRANSPORT FOR THE TENDRING DISTRICT

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR Y/E DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

### 1. WHAT DID THE HON CHAIR & COMMITTEE & ONTRACK DO IN 2017?

- **ONTRACK campaigned** vigorously against station booking office closures, within the tight 3 week timeframe allowed; Despite PASSENGER FOCUSS although issuing a critical report appear ultimately agreed to ABELLIO GAR's request on the basis of assurances that were given.
  - **It was the TDC Chair that brought you the TORNADO STEAM TRAIN;** An Outstanding event with national press coverage boosting the local shops and economy in response to a TDC idea to celebrate 150 years of the TENDRING HUNDRED RAILWAY reaching Walton On The Naze
  - **ONTRACK is stakeholder member of the Tendring District Council Transport Liaison Group (TDC TLG monthly meetings)** – our Hon Chair is Acting TLG Committee Clerk and attended official conferences wearing both ONTRACK/ TDC TLG hat. This has enabled closer working and engagement of local District, County Councillors and MPs.
  - **ONTRACK has been working together with Essex County Council, Rail, Dept. for Transport, Network Rail, Greater Anglia Railways, Transport Focus), Essex Rail Users Federation, Rail Future (Railway Development Society) and other stakeholder organisations e.g. TCT, Community Rail Partnership, British Transport Police.**
  - **ONTRACK Chair represented you and Tendring District at the Essex & Suffolk County Councils Joint Rail Conference NOVEMBER 2017** (Key point is that all the parties participating want infrastructure investment. East Anglia apart from London area is one of the two regions that provide a net contribution to the UK economy but lags at the bottom of the national infrastructure investment. The Director for Hutchison Ports (Felixstowe Port) supports the double tracking of the line to Felixstowe which is operating at max capacity
  - **ONTRACK represented you and Tendring District at the Network Rail Control Period 6 Spending Planning Meeting, Stratford East London** (together with chair of Suffolk county Council, director of DB rail freight we pointed out pure replacement and repair of like for like is no good if it locks out highly likely future population growth led service improvements, **(and also previously in the Spring of 2017, a Joint NR/ DfT Consultative meeting Ipswich but with TDC Chair and Officers present)**
  - **ONTRACK CHAIR attended RAIL FUTURE (Railway Development Society) meetings in September and December., at the latter met the new incumbent Director for the East-West rail project linking the key economic/ employment centres Oxford-Milton Keynes- Bedford Cambridge and eventually onwards to Norwich and Ipswich.** The September meeting enabled us to pick the brains the of leader of the successful Waverley Route reopening campaign
  - **ONTRACK CHAIR met the Divisional Commander of the specialist British Transport (BT) Police at RCTS Meeting at the start of December.** There is an operational overlap with the County and Metropolitan Police forces but it is the BT who have the specialist training to investigate accidents, incidents
2. **ONTRACK OFFICERS in August and September visited mock ups of the new trains.** What we will be getting to/ from will be version of the Commuter trains as to be used on Cross Rail, but with no first class, no buffet and seats which comfort on various models has already been called into question. So an ongoing debate in The Rail press
3. **SEE OUR NEW POSTERS** – tell your friends and neighbours ONTRACK NEEDS YOU – Together Every One achieves More (TEAM) Why not display one? (Download from website)