

South West Trains - Notes & Action points - 20th April 2015

Attendees and Apologies

Attending:	Role:	Gillingham Project Areas
Ian Day	Community Representative (Chair)	GNPG & Town Team member
Cllr Val Potheary	Town and District Councillor (District portfolio holder for regeneration)	GNPG & Town Team member
Sheila Messer	Walkers are Welcome (Chair) and Gillingham Walking Festival	To Achieve ' Walkers are Welcome Accreditation' by Sept 2015
Jan Wardell	North Dorset Ramblers (Footpath officer); Dorset Access Forum	
David Beaton	Chairman - Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan	Strategic Planning for Gillingham
John Ryan	Member – Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan	Lead on the Transport theme of the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan.
Phil Bevis	Chm, Gillingham Town Team & Vice-Chm of the Shaftesbury and Gillingham Tourism Association	Strategic and practical projects for the Town Team
Robert Lennis	Major projects officer for the Gillingham Southern Extension	Southern Extension to Gillingham (1700 houses, with infrastructure)
Steve Joyce	Town Councillor	Town Team
Sue McGowan	Transport Planning Officer at Dorset County Council	
Sarah Reeves	Community Resources Worker – Three Rivers Partnership	Support for projects in the Town.
Derek Beer	Shaftesbury & Gillingham Transport Action Group meeting (TAG Chair)	Transport improvement in North Dorset.
Sam Woodcock	President – Dorset Local History Society. Gillingham Museum.	
Phil Dominey	Stakeholder Manager – SWT	
Glen Hatherley	Station Manager - SWT	
Apologies:		
Mark Hebditch	Chm - Three Rivers Community Partnership	Community Plan for the Town, GNPG, Walkers are Welcome.
Clare Ratcliffe	Gillingham Town Council (Office Manager)	Keen to include the Town Council's Green Spaces project as part of the links and signage from the station. (previously worked on the Castle Cary Station improvements with the community)

No	Item	Action
1	Visit to Gillingham Station – Glen Hatherley – PART 1.	
	<p>Part 1 of the meeting was held on the downside of the Station (platform2) Glen gave a summary of her role as Station Manager, she is responsible for the operational management of the stations from Tisbury to Exeter. Glen has been trying to get the toilets upgraded.</p> <p>Derek Beer - chairman of the Transport Action Group (TAG) for the area said that Gillingham is the busiest station between Salisbury and Exeter. However it is graded lower than Sherborne at C and that an upgrade to a higher category will bring investment to improve the station, its facilities and environs.</p> <p>The group visited the access route from Platform B which is inadequate in terms of accessibility and also in consideration of the Southern Extension Area (SSA) to the Town. Sue McGowan (DCC) and Robert Lennis (NDDC) are looking into the ownership of this path and the land on the Trading Estate to look at options</p>	Sue Mc/ Robert

	<p>to improve access to the downside of the station. Topics discussed at the Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walkers are Welcome signage and information links - Double decker car parking - Enlarging the shelter on the downside. - Timetables / integrated transport links. - Transport link / signage e.g 'alight here for Stourhead'? - Alistair Wright is the Head of Estates for SW Trains. - Heritage and Railway link, also Constable links - Planting /maintenance of the banks time schedule should enhance the flowering season. <p>Derek Beer – The TAG are paying for a Timetable Board to attach to the bustop. DB to find out who owns or has responsibility for maintenance of the bus stop eg: DCC / NDDC / GTC.</p> <p>Sue McGowan – A bus Stop will be installed outside the Barn Surgery and funds are available for improvements. Sue liaises with Derek Beer on the TAG and with Robert Lennis on the SSA.</p> <p>Good example of signage on SW Trains at Wool Station.</p> <p>In summary – everyone was in agreement about the range and types of improvements needed. Glen was supportive and said she would attend any future meetings and to keep her informed.</p>	Derek
2	Meeting with Phil Dominey – Stakeholder Manager at SWT - Part 2.	
	<p>Phil Dominey gave a brief introduction to his role. He has worked on the line for many years on the trains and at Gillingham Station. In his current role he has remit to work with local communities to enhance the station. A new role has been created to assist in this role and interviews for a 'Community Relations Manger' are being held on the 11 May.</p> <p>Recent developments were given a brief synopsis such as the 8/9% growth in train travel year on year; emphasis on the Exeter to Waterloo as a strategic mainline route - which will help to justify the business case for improvements on the line. There has been a recent SWT announcement on increased services to London and connectively with Yeovil.</p> <p>Discussion: Derek Beer (TAG) asked how we can help to get the Station re-graded. Phil Dominey (SWT) wanted to know more about the growth plans for the Town. Robert Lennis (NDDC) gave a brief summary and said that a full introduction and background to the SSA and the Local Plan for North Dorset has been sent via email to PD.</p> <p>The Local Plan identifies the growth plans for the four towns in North Dorset plus the station at Gillingham is identified at a district and county level as the regional transport hub (which serves: North Dorset and South Somerset)</p> <p>Strategic transport issues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consortium will soon produce a 'Master Planning Framework' for NDDC to agree principles and this will include future transportation needs. - Increased parking - Accessibility access via the downside platform. - Bridge across the river. 	Phil D.

	<p>Walkers are Welcome (WaW) – Sheila Messer.</p> <p>A brief of the WAW national scheme was circulated to the group and outlined the 6 criteria required to award Gillingham this accreditation in time for the Walking Festival 5-13th Sept 2015). Links with public transport (integrations, signage, walks from/to etc..)</p> <p>Sheila to liaise with Derek re: matching signage with the TAG Timetable board.</p> <p>Town Projects that link with SWT</p> <p>Gillingham has a number of initiatives to promote the Town such as the Town Team, Local History Society, Heritage Enhancement Project, Open Spaces Project, Walking Festival, Town Meadow Regeneration, community arts - all of which will form a town strategy to position Gillingham as a destination for activities and as a transport hub for the town and surrounding areas in partnership with other agencies.</p> <p>Improvements these groups would like to see at the Station include: Station appearance improved, environs improved (a boulevard walk was mentioned), footprints to the Meadow, ticket office with tourism info/photo boards, leaflets for walks and activities, art works, improved signage, planting.</p> <p>PD said that that some good work has been done on promotion and signage on Brockinghurst, Southampton and Portsmouth Stations.</p>	<p>Shelia, Derek, Phil D.</p> <p>Ian, Phil D / Sarah</p> <p>Phil D</p>
3	ACTION POINTS	
a	<p>OPERATIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage at the station can be erected (subject to clearance with Glen Hatherly) This applies to Walkers are Welcome, Transport Action Group and indeed any other initiatives. • The idea of establishing a Friends of Gillingham Station was mooted by Phil Dominey so that day to day presentation like flower beds etc. can be undertaken by volunteers. This needs a volunteer to lead on. There are precedents elsewhere on the network. • There is scope for the existing tenant of the café (Platform One) to open a serving hatch to the platform. Clearly that requires some non SWT investment but I will confirm that is a possibility with them. 	<p>SM</p> <p>Sarah to report back to Town Team for Vols.</p>
b	<p>STRATEGIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil gave a thorough overview of the importance of the line and various initiatives to improve service provision. • Critical to the future is the re-categorising of the Station from D to C. While this is no guarantee of funding per se it will 'raise the bar' Work with Derek Beer on this in tandem with John Ryan from the GNPG(?) Improved shelter on the 'down' line is an example of what may be achieved. • Provision of additional parking and improved access to the 'down' line can be achieved but only with the active participation of North Dorset DC and funding provision from within the Southern Extension budget. • We should investigate with North Dorset DC what suitable land could be available and whether there is an appetite by the owner of that land to invest in making it a chargeable Car Park. 	<p>Phil, Robert Sue Mc John R,</p>
	<p>CONTINUING COMMUNICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWT will shortly appoint a community relationship manager – My suggestion is that we channel communication through one representative of the Town's interest to help build a proper relationship – on this I am willing to volunteer. 	<p>Ian.</p>
4	Date of the Next Meeting – TBC	

