

Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee

08/01/19

External Board/Outside Body

External Board/Outside Body	Medway Valley Line Steering Group
Councillor(s) represented on the Outside Body/External Board	Clive English
Report Author	Clive English
Date of External Board/Outside Body Meeting Attended	11/12/18

Purpose of the External Board/Outside Body:

This is the local rail partnership and its work therefore overlaps to some extent with the Kent Community Rail Partnership. Its main role is to bring together local Borough, and Parish Councils and other stakeholders along the line. It discusses detailed issues from new ticket machines and re-timetabling services to reusing signal boxes and promoting the railway for tourism purposes. To this end much of the activity is promotional by running events such as walks and historical recreations such as the WW1 train, or aimed at public involvement i.e. community adoption of stations.

Update:

Since the last meeting, work has taken place on reusing vacant station buildings including at Watlington and improve Snodland Station. Representations have been made on the DFT funding for Station improvements. As a result Maidstone West has been shortlisted for access funding and the final decision is awaited.

Representations continue to be made on issues surrounding the new franchise, which is unlikely to be in place by April 1st 2019, and campaigning continues to safeguard and enhance high speed services.

Concerns have been raised with Tonbridge and Malling Council regarding the complete absence of any reference to the line in the emerging local plan at a comparatively late stage.

Elsewhere educational and community events to promote the line and sustainable transport have taken place including the Santa Train on December 15th, (part funded by Maidstone Borough Councillors) and work has commenced with the KRCP on the DFT's Community Rail Strategy.