

HARROGATE LINE SUPPORTERS GROUP MEMBERS – BULLETIN 15 October 2015

In view of your keen interest in rail services on the Harrogate Line, I would like to extend an invitation our open Chamber meeting next Monday, 2nd November commencing at 18.15 until 20.00 at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate.

Presentations will be a "Traffic & Transport Update - major improvements planned for Harrogate's connectivity", with key speakers from Virgin Trains East Coast, Transdev Harrogate & District and North Yorkshire County Council Highways.

The agenda is attached and it is also available here www.harrogatechamber.org/meetingnov2015

VIRGIN TRAINS EAST COAST – PLANNED NEW IEP TRAINS FOR HARROGATE.

Of particular interest to Harrogate Line Supporters Group Members will be the first presentation summarised as follows:

- **Plans for new Express trains - Harrogate - Kings Cross**
by Neal Smith, Head of Communications , Virgin Trains East Coast
 - o Virgin & Stagecoach take over East Coast franchise
 - o New Inter-City Express Programme trains now being built
 - o Planned two-hourly service Harrogate-Kings Cross from 2019

NORTH YORKSHIRE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROSPECTUS

North Yorkshire County Council will be outlining their plans for major road improvements and maybe the long-awaited Western Bypass and Northern Relief Road, which form part of the Council's long term Strategic Transport Prospectus announced this week.

The prospectus also includes plans to improve access to high speed and conventional rail, including transformational changes on the Leeds-Harrogate-York railway. Speaking to the County Council's Executive on Tuesday, Executive Member Coun. Don MacKenzie said *Our long term plan for the line is for a £170m investment to bring about the electrification of the line, transformation and modernisation of Harrogate Station, and double tracking all of the remaining single track sections to improve performance and resilience. These works are being phased over the next 10 years, with the first sections of double track that are being funded by the County Council to be completed by 2018.*"

PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

To book your place for this Chamber Meeting please reply to this e-mail, including your name, organisation name and address. Admission is FREE for first-time attendees, but for second-time non-member attendees a £15 entrance fee is payable on arrival. Complimentary refreshments will be available from 17.30 until 18.15.

JOINT MEETING WITH RAIL FUTURE + MINISTER 23/01/16

You may also like to make a note in your next year's diary of a joint meeting we are holding with the Yorkshire Branch of Rail Future on Saturday 23rd January 2016 when the main speaker will be Andrew Jones MP, now Parliamentary under Secretary of State in the Department for Transport.

Rail Future will issue more details in due course and I shall send that all members an invitation to this meeting which will be at the Cedar Court Hotel in Harrogate commencing at 13.00. Booking is needed.

P.S.

Andrew Jones recently spoke about the Harrogate Line to our local radio station Stray FM who have kindly agreed that we can release the attached recording of his statement in MP3 format.

I hope that you can attend either or both of these meetings and look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Brian L Dunsby, Chief Executive
(Holder of The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion)
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