

# Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways (FOSBR) Roundup 2019

Produced for FOSBR AGM, 14th February 2020



## Committee

- Rob Dixon (Chair)
- Andy MacGillivray (Secretary)
- Tina Biggs (Campaigns)
- Tony Lloyd (Treasurer and Newsletter)
- Carol Durrant (Press)
- Terry Miller (Analyst)
- Tim Weekes (Web)

## Outreach activities

- Public engagement in Coalpit Heath and Portishead (December 2018)
- Public engagement in Thornbury (14 February)
- Four-track Friday at Filton Abbey Wood – to celebrate Filton Bank 4-tracking (22 February)
- Bishopston Ukulele Group at Redland station – to promote “FOSBR half-hour petition” (9 June)
- Stall at Bristol Clean Air Day (20 June)
- Stall at Severn Vale Festival (13 July)
- Passenger engagement at Filton Abbey Wood regarding December 2019 timetable changes (5 December)
- Stall at ZeroWest Winter Conference (16 January 2020)

## Meetings attended

- Bristol Older People’s Forum
- Friends of Parson Street
- Severnside CRP Forums
- SevernNet Transport Forums
- Sustainable Transport Network meetings
- TfGB meetings
- TravelWatch South West
- WECA Transport Forums
- FOSBR committee monthly meetings
- meeting with Darren Jones MP, Bristol North West (19 January)
- Central Area Timetable Group meeting with GWR (25 February)
- South-West ASLEF Weekend School – FOSBR presentation by Julie Boston (23 March)
- meeting with Mark Weston, Bristol City Councillor, Henbury & Brentry and YTL Developments (19 June)
- meeting with Steve Reade, South Glos Cabinet Member for Transport (31 July)
- Brabazon Hangar visit (20 November)
- Temple Quarter Regeneration – Connectivity Improvements Session (27 November)

## Consultation responses

- WECA JSP (January 2019)
- WECA JLTP4 (February 2019)
- GWR Central Area Timetable Review (March 2019)
- Williams Review (May 2019)
- GWR review of dwell times at Bristol Temple Meads (July 2019)
- Western Gateway Rail Strategy (December 2019)

## Campaigns

- FOSBR half-hour petition on <https://www.change.org/p/half-hourly-train-services-to-all-west-of-england-railway-stations>  
“FOSBR and our allies call on the DfT, WECA, GWR and other decision makers to ensure that, with four tracks now in place on Filton Bank, progress is made towards a half-hourly service to all West of England local stations, starting with Severn Beach Line (MetroWest Phase 1a), from May 2020 timetable, at the latest by December 2020” - 360 online signatories, 400 paper signatories so far

- distributed more than 2500 Rail Plan postcards with return address of MetroMayor: the FOSBR Plan for Rail accelerates and extends WECA's rail plans by adding new stations and capacity across the region
- monitoring of cancellations and delays on Severn Beach line since introduction of Class 166 units (2017), signalling BASRE upgrade (2018) and the four-tracking of Filton Bank (2018) – graphs are available on our website <https://fosbr.org.uk/reliability/>

### **Rail news**

- bedding in of Filton Bank four-tracking (in use since December 2018)
- inter-city trains operate under electric to Bristol Parkway (January 2019)
- MetroBus M1 route starts operation (January 2019), M3 and M2 already in operation
- £48m shortfall plugged for £116m MetroWest Phase 1b Portishead line (April 2019), DCO submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by North Somerset Council (November 2019), services running by December 2023?
- accessible ramps/footbridge open at Stapleton Road after four-tracking (May 2019)
- WECA announce that full planning applications will be submitted “over next few months” for North Filton and Henbury (MetroWest Phase 2), while NR has permitted development rights to construct Ashley Down on the site of the previous station (June 2019)
- BCC submit a Clean Air Zone plan to government (November 2019)
- announcement (December 2019) that costs for Portway P&R have risen by £1m to £3.4m, detailed design of station due by May 2020, with station opening December 2020
- Network Rail publish detailed timelines for the re-configuration of Bristol East Junction, the work running from December 2019 through December 2021
- introduction of the December 2019 timetable with improved faster GWR services to London, improved Sunday service to Severn Beach but termination of some cross-city local services at Filton Abbey Wood instead of Parkway
- inter-city trains operate under electric to Cardiff (January 2020)

### **Newsletters produced**

- Issue 99 (January 2019)
- Issue 100 (June 2019)
- Issue 101 (October 2019)
- Issue 102 (January 2020)

### **Membership**

- 184 private individuals
- 8 organisations

### **Digital reach**

- Website: Our new webmaster (Tim) ported fosbr.org.uk to a new platform and has given it a makeover. Since the new website went live in December it has had over 2,500 visits, and we have published 36 topical posts in 13 categories. Nearly 60% of visitors come to the website on mobile phones and tablets. We have a PayPal payment option for those who wish to pay online, and will be adding more features over the coming months.
- Facebook: Our page has 401 followers; our 101 posts in 2019 were on average each seen by 285 Facebook users and read/commented/shared by 68
- Twitter: Our account has 724 followers

### **Feedback**

We welcome comments from our members on what FOSBR should be doing, and how we could be doing it better. Please feel free to contact us via:

- email [campaigns@fosbr.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@fosbr.org.uk)
- contact form on the website fosbr.org.uk
- [www.facebook.com/FOSBR](http://www.facebook.com/FOSBR)
- @FOSBR on Twitter

Abbreviations: BCC = Bristol City Council; WECA = West of England Combined Authority; JLTP4 = Joint Local Transport Plan; JSP = Joint Spatial Plan; GWR = Great Western Railway; DCO = Development Consent Order