

English Regional Transport Association (ERTA)

~ ERTA, starting in Bedfordshire and now continuing across the regions, advocating the advancement of select public transport solutions! ~

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Twitter: @ERTAVoluntary @ERTACampaigns @ReopenAmphill @ERTACobblerLine ERTA on Google Plus/ERTA Voluntary Organisation: https://plus.google.com/u/0/112439282775857662175/posts Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ReopenAmphillStation		
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What does ERTA Promote, Stand For, Have as Focus'?

Within our means we aim to focus in a micro-managed fashion the following subject to more members, more volunteers and more general support. A joining slip is on the back of this newsletter. The list is not exhaustive but gives an indicator:

- 1. Bedford-Olney-Northampton** would enable from just one train, continuity of Thameslink from Brighton-Bedford-Birmingham including Gatwick and Luton Airports for example, as well as Birmingham, Coventry and if the Dudding Hill Line in London is reopened, a direct link with just one change to Heathrow.
- 2. Amphill Station Reopening.** As a historic market town, a weekend leisure break, now with CentreParcs to boot, Amphill Station would make for better access to this outstanding area.
- 3. Kempston Retail/Town Station 'new'.** Situated on the Marston Vale Railway, this addendum could add a much needed boost to off peak usership of this often overlooked railway asset. Should go hand in hand with a Sunday and Bank Holiday timetable and improved rolling stock.
- 4. East-West Rail in full.** No-nonsense calls for reopening the entire Oxford-Bletchley-Bedford-Cambridge Railway, using the old trackbed route as a basis with healthy deviations where blockages exist. Extra tracks between the new Hitchin Flyover and Arlesey-South of Biggleswade with links on/off the East-West Railway with East Coast Main Line (ECML) would enable Peterborough-Stevenage-Bedford links as well as the cross-country service element to thrive.
- 5. Great Central Railway Rebuilding with Birmingham and Leicester arms.** It is our conviction that in equivalent cost to HS2 as a conventional railway, the nation would get more for same money.
- 6. London-wide:** We have a London flyer already and getting local area reps to help usher schemes in their location is just the ticket to help move them forward. That we have momentum is due to campaigning over the years by countless individuals and voluntary groups like ERTA.
- 7. Northampton-Wellingborough, Roade Station, Manton Curve, Buckingham Loop** to be evaluated. The Borders Railway is rebuilt and doing well: [http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13619727.How the Borders Railway creates a new future for Scotland s forgotten region/?ref=rss](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13619727.How%20the%20Borders%20Railway%20creates%20a%20new%20future%20for%20Scotland%20s%20forgotten%20region/?ref=rss)

Diary

Date	Place	Purpose	Contact/Details
Saturday 14th November 13:00	The Queen's Head, 4 Cambridge Road, Market Square, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG191JE	Sandy Forum	T. 01767 681115 Trains serve Sandy regularly from Hitchin, Kings Cross and Peterborough. No. 73 from Bedford Bus Station: https://www.stagecoachbus.com/pdfs/XEAO073.pdf
Wednesday 9th December 4pm	Stir Frys Chinese Restaurant, 3A George Street Croydon	Christmas Bash Social Event	All Welcome. Trams deliver to virtually outside the door from East and West Croydon Rail Stations. Tel: 0208 940 4399

New Ampthill Station Reports now available

£3.00 each for hard copy. Send remittance to Mr Richard Pill, 24c St Michael's Road, Bedford, MK40 2LT – First come first served.

Free PDF copies are available via erta.9rails@yahoo.co.uk

Ampthill Forum: Wednesday, 25 November Ampthill Forum 7pm at the Albion Pub (Side Room), Dunstable Street, Ampthill T. 01525 791 935

Association Needs

Webmaster	ERTA is seeking a reliable and competent webmaster who can provide a basic facility for membership, donations and recruitment purposes and have pages for various campaigns and reflect aspects of interest to us.
Fund Raisers	ERTA is seeking a reliable and competent fund raiser who can provide a regular effort to help fund-raise. As long as lawful and safe, the reach and range is broad. It could be meetings based or sponsored walks, events and exploring niche funding and applying for it in tandem with others.
Technical Support	Are you a dab hand with I.T.? If so help with trouble shooting, advice, use of artwork and other software packages would inform a useful skills pool for our association to get its diagrams done, discuss any issues which arise and work as a team. This role need not be committee based, but remote or ad hoc meetings could be easily accommodated.
Volunteering and nature-nurture thereof.	ERTA like many organisations relies on volunteers to make anything happen. A lack of volunteers is likely to inform that little happens. It is Voluntary work. Yes it is voluntary, but it is also work. Like keys on a piano you can find numerous schools of thought, some think it should all be pleasure, others hard graft. But the middle road begs reliability and someone who is keen and willing will be flexible and enthusiastic. F you feel you could offer some small contribution, we welcome you to get in touch. There are opportunities to try media, marketing and campaigning/advocacy, as well as behind the scenes like technical realisation, transporting people and goods, manning stalls and thinking outside the box in terms of our growth, I.T. and suitable resourcing for such. But it is 'voluntary' and it is 'work'. So if you have a spare hour per week, you are just the sort of person we are interested in. From 1 hour a week or more to ad hoc or just peopling our Forums, every little really does help to make our association full bodied and better hopefully.
STOP PRESS! We are pleased to announce two new assistants to help Simon with the Finances of ERTA and helping with record keeping. Welcome to ERTA!	

Richard Pill has his book and promotion stall twice a month at St Paul's Church Bedford: 19.9.15 Michaelmas (St Paul's), 21.11.15 Christmas (St Paul's), 13.12.15.
<http://www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk/page4.html>
 T. 01234 330090 / richard.selfemployed@yahoo.co.uk
 Please keep in touch for any further news or updates.
 All welcome.

Copies of Richard's English Regional Transport Reform Newsletter No. 3 are available freely as a pdf. Current edition focuses on the Marston Vale Railway. If interested, please email richard.selfemployed@yahoo.co.uk to request a copy. To subscribe for hard copy, it is £10 per annum to cover costs.

ERTA's predecessor long called for a new station at Kempston on the Marston Vale Railway to serve both the Retail Park and put the town on the railway map. The case looks like this:

Population of Kempston	19,440	Source	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kempston
Round up figure	20,000	10% =	200
No of trains	X2 each way x 16 hour day =	32 trains = 200 divide by 32 =	6.25 extra people per train
Parking slots at Retail Park approx 1500	Divide by 32 trains per day =	approx 47 per train	Total per train approximately 53 extra passengers per train.

Disclaimer: This is a rounded sum only. A proper study could look at practical aspects such as traffic generation, mode of access preference and accommodation in site, parking and layout. We welcome funds for studies.

The Retail Park is a major traffic generator and is full nearly 7 days per week at capacity. It informs many basic rate paid jobs and keeps job stats down. It has expanded to a new site across the Bedford-Amphill B530 next to the Midland Main Line and sandwiched by the A421 Bypass cordon. The original site was built in the early to mid 1980's and sits adjacent to the Marston Vale Railway. It was originally intimated that a station would be built but somehow it never happened. A planning application came up around 2004 and BRTA (ERTA's predecessor) supported it, but a few powerful objectors fearing traffic in their cul-de-sac led it to flounder at the Planning Stage. The halt would enable pedestrian/cycle access to Kempston, the Retail Park but also the Woburn Road industrial employment hub as well as growing south and west Bedford without recourse to Bedford and a lengthy all round the houses bus tour to reach the Kempston Southfields site.



Caption Above Left: 15:30pm head into Bedford passing one of three possible sites where a connecting cycle-footbridge and halt might go.



Caption Above Right: 15:55 heads past what was once Elstow Halt near Cow Bridge, so called because it had a causeway for cows to go under!



Disclaimer:

This newsletter seeks to give vent and coverage of news relating to the windows, efforts and activities of the ERTA for members and wider sympathetic potential reach and ranges of others.

It may not necessarily be precise ERTA policy always, but seeks to include the spirit thereof. If you feel anything is 'out to lunch' and worthy of a correction, please do let us know and/or why not write a letter permitting us to publish your observations, facts or counter claim.

ERTA editorial reserves the right to restrict responses to the first 150 words, as space is always at a premium.

All pictures are the Editors unless otherwise stated.



Above Left: The array of cycles at Trumpington Park and Ride Cambridge, contrasts the dearth of other places. Location and safe route access makes or breaks successful multi-modal transport plans and policies. **Top Right** The old Bedford-Cambridge Rail route underpass bridge remnant. **Bottom Right:** Park and Ride Passengers Board the Blue Bus into Cambridge City Centre, which is a sprawled area.

Fill In, Tear Off and Send with Your Subscription Please!

ERTA, come to our local Forums and offer time and talent as you may?

Tick if a New Member: _____ Tick if renewing as an existing member: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ **Tel/Mobile:** _____

If you wish to renew your membership, please indicate category:

New Member: £5 for the first year _____

Business/Corporate/Sponsor/Benefactor: £20.00 _____

Fully Waged Adult/Family/Individual £10.00 _____

Concessions: £5.00* _____

(*Students, Low Income Households, or on any kind of Benefit/Pension or Disability)

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Please send completed form to ERTA Membership Secretary:

Mr Simon Barber, 20 Fitzherbert House, Kingsmead, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6HT T. 0208 940 4399 E.

simong.barber@o2.co.uk ERTA... it's what its members make it!