

## **Held at:**

7.30 pm, Walkden Gateway Centre

## **Attendees:**

*Don Jary (DJ, Client and Stakeholder Manager, Northern Rail)*  
*Andy Barlow (AB)*  
*Angela Critchley (AC)*  
*Preva Crossley (PC)*  
*Peter Hope (PH)*  
*Keith Ingram (KI)*  
*Nina Keshishian (NK, Friends of Patricroft Station)*  
*Kathy Knowles (KK)*  
*David Lindley (DL)*  
*Cllr Iain Lindley (IL)*  
*Harry Merrick (HM)*  
*PC Maxine Southwell (MS, British Transport Police)*  
*Neil Stapleton (NS – Minutes)*  
*Cllr Richard Critchley (RC)*  
*Michael Potts (MP)*  
*Tony Warburton (TW)*

## **Apologies:**

*Jennifer & Dennis Reynolds*  
*Frank Bridge*  
*Frank and Eileen Collier*  
*Mark & Elizabeth Charnley (Friends of Eccles Station)*  
*Peter Garvey*  
*Jordan Moore (Salford Neighbourhood Team)*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	<p><b>Chair's Welcome &amp; Introductions</b></p> <p>Apologies received from the people listed above.</p>
2	<p><b>Guest Speaker: Don Jary, Northern Rail Client &amp; Stakeholder Manager</b></p> <p>Don Jary presented on the subject of infrastructure and electrification developments across the north west and its effect on Northern Rail services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern's franchise ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March this year and they are currently in negotiation with DfT for a 22-month extension;</li> <li>• All details of service proposals are therefore commercially sensitive and cannot be shared at this time;</li> <li>• Current expectations are that the next northern franchise will start in Feb. 2016, with opportunities for stakeholders to feed into the franchise consultation starting this year;</li> <li>• Major changes will be introduced to most NW routes from May 2014 as TransPennine Express introduce a 5<sup>th</sup> hourly service between Leeds and Manchester, but this one running from Victoria rather than Piccadilly;</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrification milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2014 Manchester Victoria/Wigan to Liverpool</li> <li>○ 2015 Blackpool to Liverpool</li> <li>○ 2016 Preston to Manchester</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2016 also target date for Ordsall Curve to open, allowing trains to run from Victoria to Piccadilly without reversing;</li> </ul> <p>Don answered questions from the audience:  HM: Will electrification work create clearances for container wagons ?  DJ: Not sure – will check</p> <p>KI: Where does Atherton line fit into electrification programme ?  DJ: There are good reasons to consider “in-filling” the Atherton line. Working groups are currently looking at which lines to electrify in future.</p> <p>AB: When will routes not in the electrification scheme see capital improvements ?  DJ: It depends on DfT strategy but probably in 2016-17 timeframe.</p> <p>IL: Can we ask Northern to support electrification of Atherton line ?  DJ: Cannot comment on this line specifically but Northern will always be advocates for strategically beneficial proposals.</p> <p>IL: May timetable changes appear generally beneficial for Walkden, but could Northern look into stopping the through expresses to plug some significant gaps (up to 40 minutes) in the peak service ?  DJ: Will always consider potential service changes but need to be conscious that trains on the Atherton and Bolton lines need to present extremely promptly at Lostock, Windsor Bridge, and Crow Nest junctions – the knock-on effects of a slightly late arrival can be “catastrophic”, and therefore some margin may need to be retained within the timetable.</p>
3	<p><b>Review of the Year, Neil Stapleton</b></p> <p>NS presented a review of significant developments at Walkden station since the previous AGM (see presentation attached with these minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June-August: platform raising, lengthening and resurfacing</li> <li>• June-August: conversion to electric signalling</li> <li>• August: Buckingham Group make good flower beds damaged during platform work</li> <li>• Nov: Passenger survey shows Peak numbers steady but 22% rise in Off-Peak travel, with record 711 passengers in total.</li> <li>• Dec: Relief buses and trains provided by Northern to cope with extraordinary visitor numbers to Manchester city centre during weekend and evenings.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report, Angela Critchley</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of Accounts March 2013 to date (see Treasurer’s Report sent with these minutes)</li> <li>• Membership Subscriptions for 2014 to remain at £2</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Election of Officers.</b></p>

Item	Subject
	<p>The current committee were re-elected unopposed (proposed by IL, seconded PC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair (Andy Barlow)</li> <li>• Secretary (Neil Stapleton)</li> <li>• Treasurer (Angela Critchley)</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Election of Auditors:</b></p> <p>Jennifer Reynolds was unanimously re-elected as FOWS Auditor (Proposed NS, Seconded AC).</p>
7	<p><b>Northern Rail Safety Update, Don Jary</b></p> <p>DJ provided a safety briefing based upon Northern Rail's "Health &amp; Safety Handbook For Station Volunteers" (attached with these minutes).</p> <p>A register of FOWS members present for the briefing was taken by DJ: those named will be covered by Northern Rail's insurance (provided safety guidelines are followed).</p> <p>DJ advised Jane Murray can provide Risk Assessments for the most common tasks likely to be performed by volunteers, and also Fire and Evacuation Plans for Walkden station.</p> <p><i>Action:</i> NS to request Risk Assessments and Walkden Fire/Evacuation Plans from Jane.</p> <p><i>Action:</i> NS to resend Northern Rail's "Health &amp; Safety Handbook For Station Volunteers" to all FoWS members.</p>
8	<p><b>Gardening Update and Plans for 2014, Angela Critchley</b></p> <p>AC proposed installation of (plastic) hanging baskets and more steel planters on platform. Also spring planting in flower beds in the next month or so.</p> <p>DJ advised that Peter (Northern Rail's Station Facilities Manager) is looking into the feasibility of hanging baskets at Walkden.</p> <p>AC reported that remaining In Bloom money from Salford has been cleared for us to spend on environmental improvements this year.</p>
9	<p><b>Artworks Update and Plans for 2014, Angela Critchley</b></p> <p>DJ advised that Peter is also looking into cost of getting contractors to install the banner designed by Worsley College students, and warned this could run into hundreds of pounds.</p>
10	<p><b>North-West Manchester Friends' Steering Group, Andy Barlow</b></p> <p>AB reported that an informal alliance between Friends groups at Walkden, Hindley and Westhoughton had been formed, with Northern Rail and TfGM backing, to discuss strategic issues affecting all stations along the line, and to help nurture new groups such as Daisy Hill.</p> <p>A launch meeting was held in February at Walkden. Future meetings will involve just the Chair and one other committee member from each group, meeting on a quarterly basis and rotating between venues close to each station.</p> <p>AB will report any developments from Steering Group meetings to FOWS members, and invited members to suggest ideas of relevance to all stations in the area for discussion by the group.</p>
11	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB asked if Northern Rail could arrange for the area outside the station front (between the fence and advertising hoardings) to be cleaned. DJ has taken a</li> </ul>

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	<p>photo to send to Shay Griffin at Network Rail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB asked if there is a schedule for cleaning the brick walls outside the station. DJ replied that there is probably no schedule and cleaning would likely be done on a basis of necessity.</li> </ul>

### ***Summary of Actions***

Who	Action
NS	Request Risk Assessments and Walkden Fire/Evacuation Plans from Jane.
NS	Resend Northern Rail's "Health & Safety Handbook For Station Volunteers" to all FoWS members.

### ***Attachments***

- 1) Review of 2013 at Walkden Station
- 2) Treasurer's Account Summary
- 3) Northern Rail's "Health & Safety Handbook For Station Volunteers"