

## **Held at:**

7.30 pm, Walkden Legion Club

## **Attendees:**

*Karen Booth (KB, Northern, Director of Community and Sustainability)*  
*Owain Roberts (OR, TfGM Rail Development Officer)*  
*Mark Mennell (MM)*  
*\* Andy Barlow (AB, Chair)*  
*\* Neil Stapleton (NS, Minutes)*  
*\* Angela Critchley (AC)*  
*Sheila Davidson (SD, Friends of Hindley Station)*  
*Alexander Davidson (AD, Friends of Hindley Station)*  
*\* Keith Ingram (KI)*  
*\* Nina Keshishian (NK, Friends of Patricroft Station)*  
*\* Andrew Leong (AL, Friends of Patricroft Station)*  
*Fay Flatt (Salford City Council Neighbourhood Development Officer)*  
*Jordan Moore (Salford City Council Neighbourhood Development Worker)*  
*\* Michael Potts (MP)*  
*\* Jennifer Reynolds (JR)*  
*\* Dennis Reynolds (DR)*  
*\* Harry Merrick (HM)*  
*\* David Lindley (DL)*  
*\* Frank Bridge (FB)*  
*Elizabeth Charnley (EC, Friends of Eccles Station)*  
*Mark Charnley (MCh, Friends of Eccles Station)*  
*\* Mike Corless (MC)*  
*\* Preva Crossley (Bolton Rail User Group)*  
*\* Peter Alexander (PA)*  
*Robert Sharpe (RS)*  
*Roy Chapman (RC)*  
*Julie Chapman (JC)*

\* = FoWS 2016 Subscription paid

## **Apologies:**

*Andy Lowe (Northern)*  
*Prof. Paul Salveson (Northern)*  
*Cllr Richard Critchley*  
*Cllr Iain Lindley*  
*Kathy Knowles*  
*Matthew Worman (Northern)*  
*Maxine Southwell (British Transport Police)*  
*Peter Aust*

Item	Subject
1	<p><b>Chair's Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Apologies received from the people listed above.</p>
2	<p><b>Guest Speaker: Karen Booth, Director of Community and Sustainability, Northern</b></p> <p>KB presented an overview of Arriva Northern's plans for community involvement and rail services in the new franchise, including the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A major programme of "as-new" refurbishments and Northern Connect branded premier services</li> <li>• Increasing peak capacity 37% in next 3 years</li> <li>• A new 24-hr "Customer Experience Centre"</li> <li>• Funding for station development and specifically community development schemes</li> <li>• Greater ticket flexibility</li> <li>• Video help points at "almost all" stations</li> <li>• Northern to be organised into West/Central/East/North-East divisions (Walkden is in Central) with an MD for each division</li> <li>• Also Regional Community Stakeholder Managers</li> <li>• £500k p.a. to Community Rail Partnerships</li> <li>• £600k p.a. to other community rail initiatives eg ACoRP</li> <li>• £100k p.a. (yr 1, £80k thereafter) to Station Adoption Fund</li> <li>• Seedcorn funding for community rail development initiatives</li> <li>• Two-way service level commitments with CRPs and ACoRP</li> <li>• More controlled volunteer pass policy</li> <li>• DfT mandated shift from individual adopters to groups like FoWS</li> <li>• National standard for adoption schemes</li> <li>• Aim for 95% stations to be adopted within 5 years</li> <li>• Carillion are currently surveyed the network to identify urgent work requirements</li> </ul> <p>AB thanked KB and looked forward to step change in service patterns from end 2017. Suggested some incremental improvements such as the local Sunday service could be considered to implementation sooner as they do not depend on increasing stock allocations.</p>
3	<p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>MCh – will Northern consult with current groups about the new adoption scheme? KB – yes, workshops to be held over this summer</p> <p>RC – would like to complement FoWS on the franchise consultation response prepared by AB – "one of the best ever" and very pleased to see the results reflected in the franchise agreement.</p> <p>RC – A lot of <b>low usage stations remain staffed</b> – will Northern remove staff from some of these to open up opportunities at busier, unstaffed stations such as Irlam? KB – People are aware of this issue and it will be looked at by the planning teams</p>

Item	Subject
	<p>PC – As station adopter for Bolton who does a lot of voluntary work I’m unhappy about dropping <b>individual station adoption scheme</b></p> <p>KB – We agree individual volunteers are very valuable but want to look at a more co-ordinated, standardised way of utilising their support and skills. There is a clear steer from DfT that station adoption by groups is the preferred approach. Our new contract with Carillion also changes the sort of tasks that adopters can do.</p> <p>AB – In our experience with the local Steering Group, teaming up to work with the industry leads to better results</p> <p>RC – The professionalism of groups like FoWS helps win hearts and minds. There is a very strong model here in Manchester that Northern could learn from.</p> <p>SD – would like to compliment Northern on the speed of a repair job at Hindley but unhappy at the prospect of <b>direct airport services being withdrawn</b></p> <p>OR – At TfGM we have not seen evidence of a decision having been made on this yet but if all trains do go to Victoria we will need to look at improving rail and other modes of connection to the southern city centre</p> <p>HM – Will Arriva Northern look to <b>improve integration with Arriva Wales services</b> e.g. at stations like Shrewsbury with poor connections times?</p> <p>AB – people in groups such as ours will need to lobby for their local concerns</p> <p>KB – Arriva companies have a planning and performance network where this kind of issue is examined</p> <p>JM – the issue of <b>parking around the station</b> has been raised by many residents</p> <p>OR – TfGM are in discussion with Salford City Council and there are very encouraging signs that a station car park may be possible on the Chestnut Avenue ex-depot site</p> <p>RS – are there any plans to improve <b>disabled access</b> to the station?</p> <p>OR – architects have drafted several options and we are currently selecting the preferred option. Sadly, funding is not yet available for implementation.</p> <p>RS – are there any plans for a <b>station at Little Hulton</b> ?</p> <p>OR – not immediately on our radar but we are working on a long term strategy that involves looking at needs of different sites and communities.</p>
4	<p><b>Review of the Year</b></p> <p>NS presented Powerpoint slide illustrating the main events of the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of final 4 planters in the In Bloom gardening scheme</li> <li>• Queens Award for Voluntary Service</li> <li>• 2016 Passenger count <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No change in Peak travel but slight fall in Off-peak</li> <li>○ 1 out of 31 trains departed on time (average delay 5 minutes).</li> <li>○ Seven trains were “full &amp; standing” and 32 passengers were denied boarding</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Tin Bath” steam special</li> <li>• Roof repairs and cleaning of station walls still outstanding</li> </ul>

Item	Subject
	<p>AB – added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Steering Group has enjoyed very positive engagement with local adoption groups</li> <li>• additional trains provided in the run up to Xmas were greatly appreciated and we hope will be repeated this year</li> <li>• As electrification work causes diversions along our line we will be asking Northern to consider the opportunities for creating additional journeys by stopping some services at key stations such as Walkden</li> <li>• The QAVS earned us some good publicity with interviews on local radio.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Station Gardening Update</b></p> <p>AC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed the planter scheme in May – our thanks again to Salford City Council for the In Bloom funding</li> <li>• We are trying wire mesh below the soil to curb the fox damage to the troughs and planters at the E end of the platform</li> <li>• We’ve had lots of positive feedback about the planters and gardens from passengers, especially when working at the station</li> <li>• The year ahead will mainly be about maintenance and appeal to members to help out more as the burden has fallen on just two or three regulars this year</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Art Project</b></p> <p>MM – I have had a look at the station and have some ideas already. I admired the steelwork and also looked at the masonry on the stairways which could have potential for some murals. I’ve taken measurements and will propose some concepts via Fay. If any members have ideas please email me directly and perhaps I will come back to FoWS to discuss</p> <p>MC – the false arch would be a lovely site for a display of Worsley’s underground canal system [NS – unfortunately this site is being consider for an alternative step-free entrance to the station]</p> <p>MM – at Patricroft the art was inspired by stories from the area so if anyone has any ideas please get in touch</p> <p>FF – I was previously Arts Officer in Community Leisure and can help advise FoWS on funding channels. Schools in this area that have been supportive of community initiatives include James Brindley, Walkden High School, and Mesne Lea.</p> <p>MM – Ambrose Barlow also have good connections and have been good to work with before</p> <p>RC – The railway industry is generally keen to encourage schools’ involvement, e.g. at Handforth station anti-social behaviour was “almost eliminated overnight” after school’s artwork was installed</p> <p>AL – involving students definitely helps reduce ASB. If you do involve schools you’ll need to give much closer guidance than if leaving the designs to a professional artist.</p>
7	<p><b>Salford Street Champions</b></p> <p>FF gave a brief explanation of this neighbourhood scheme – see <a href="https://www.salford.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/salford-street-champions/">https://www.salford.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/salford-street-champions/</a> for details</p>

Item	Subject																								
8	<p><b>Walkden Heritage Trail</b></p> <p>MC – Worsley Civic Trust are hoping to open the trail this year including a poster at the station.</p> <p>The RHS Garden opening in 2019 is likely to boost passengers travelling to/from Walkden station.</p> <p>Does anyone know where I can find a Hunslet steam locomotive to put on a display plinth in Walkden ?</p>																								
9	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <p>AC:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary of Financial Position from 11/03/15 to 09/03/16</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 645 1246 969"> <tr> <td>Total Funds at AGM 11/03/2015 <i>Bank Account ... £1872.44</i> <i>Petty Cash ..... £00.90</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1873.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Income during year</td> <td style="text-align: right;">+ £569.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Expenditure during year</td> <td style="text-align: right;">- £1625.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Funds at AGM 09/03/2016 <i>Bank Account... £776.32</i> <i>Petty Cash ..... £40.74</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£817.06</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Breakdown of Income from 11/03/15 to 09/03/16</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 1066 1246 1263"> <tr> <td>Membership (£42 collected at AGM)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£42.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£9.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant from Salford City Council</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£518.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£569.50</b></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Breakdown of Expenditure from 11/03/15 to 09/03/16</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="427 1359 1251 1556"> <tr> <td>Website hosting*</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Renewal of domain name</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Bloom</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1619.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£1625.78</b></td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to David Lindley for hosting the FOWS website at no cost to FOWS</li> <li>• Thanks to Jennifer Reynolds for auditing the accounts, also at no cost to FOWS</li> </ul>	Total Funds at AGM 11/03/2015 <i>Bank Account ... £1872.44</i> <i>Petty Cash ..... £00.90</i>	£1873.34	Total Income during year	+ £569.50	Total Expenditure during year	- £1625.78	Total Funds at AGM 09/03/2016 <i>Bank Account... £776.32</i> <i>Petty Cash ..... £40.74</i>	£817.06	Membership (£42 collected at AGM)	£42.00	Donations	£9.00	Grant from Salford City Council	£518.50	<b>Total</b>	<b>£569.50</b>	Website hosting*	£0.00	Renewal of domain name	£5.99	In Bloom	£1619.79	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1625.78</b>
Total Funds at AGM 11/03/2015 <i>Bank Account ... £1872.44</i> <i>Petty Cash ..... £00.90</i>	£1873.34																								
Total Income during year	+ £569.50																								
Total Expenditure during year	- £1625.78																								
Total Funds at AGM 09/03/2016 <i>Bank Account... £776.32</i> <i>Petty Cash ..... £40.74</i>	£817.06																								
Membership (£42 collected at AGM)	£42.00																								
Donations	£9.00																								
Grant from Salford City Council	£518.50																								
<b>Total</b>	<b>£569.50</b>																								
Website hosting*	£0.00																								
Renewal of domain name	£5.99																								
In Bloom	£1619.79																								
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1625.78</b>																								
8	<p><b>Election of Officers.</b></p> <p>The current officers were re-elected unopposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair (Andy Barlow)</li> <li>• Secretary (Neil Stapleton)</li> <li>• Treasurer (Angela Critchley)</li> </ul>																								
9	<p><b>Appointment of auditor</b></p> <p>The meeting approved the re-appointment of Jennifer Reynolds as auditor of accounts for the forthcoming year.</p>																								

Item	Subject
10	<b>Any Other Business</b> RS – proposed a round of applause to thank all members for their hard work over the last year AB – appealed to members to spread the word about FoWS and our desire to recruit new members

*There being no further business, the chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.*