

The **monthly** branch newsletter of **railfuture** in London and the South East

Britain's leading *independent* campaign for a bigger better railway for passengers and freight

## Runways? Railways!

Agnostic about the former, advocate for the latter. There are six principal 'London' airports, all rail-connected, and countless others around our regional branch and wider Transport for the South East areas.

While we await the end of the official deliberations on Gatwick's current proposal, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has put Heathrow into the news cycle. As an independent pro-rail lobby group our position is long-established – it's all about the surface access.

The Gatwick Airport Northern Runway project has reached the decision stage. This means that the Examining Authority ie the Planning Inspectorate has completed its enquiries and sent its recommendation to the Secretary of State, who has until 27<sup>th</sup> February to issue a decision (or extend the period for one).

Meanwhile and regardless of any formal proposals for Heathrow which may, or may not, yet be submitted, Railfuture remains committed in support of the transformation of surface access, to give mode share by our favourite sustainable mode a lift-off, by connecting Terminal 5 (and Terminals 2 & 3) by rail with mainlines to and from London Waterloo near Staines (Spelthorne), the south west near Virginia Water (Runnymede), and the west near Langley (Slough). [Heathrow Southern Railway](#) champion the former while [Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group](#) are a leading flag-carrier for the latter.

Remember what is known as the 'John Welsby maxim' (he was a BR Chief Executive and then its last Board Chairman): "*The same projects are announced every year – and in a good year they're announced twice!*"

## Britain's Growing Railway in London and South East: February birthdays

~ on the 7<sup>th</sup>, in 1966, Garston, Herts. Probably the first new, rather than reopened or relocated, post-Beeching rail station, with c.75k entries and exits in 2019/20, slumping to less than 9k in 2020/21 and recovering slightly to over 18k in 2021/22, then to 45k in 2023/24.

~ on the 28<sup>th</sup>, in 2011, the Dalston Junction-Highbury & Islington extension of London Overground (now the Windrush line) services from Crystal Palace and West Croydon, just four months short of 25 years since the last scheduled passenger train through Dalston Junction station on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 1986.

**Our vision for rail:** *A railway system that provides services which travellers and freight forwarders want to use, and which offers more journey opportunities to more people and more freight.*

## What shall we be doing this month?

London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, will be:-

~ seeking nominations by Monday 31 March for officers and other members of your regional branch committee for 2025/26, ahead of the AGM on Saturday 12 April. Nomination forms in [L&SE AGM](#).

~ holding a regular monthly meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, [online](#).

~ holding regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway and Kent Divisions, [online](#).

~ spaces permitting, attending the [regional roadshows](#) in Brighton, London Euston, and London Oval for the DfT's Call for Ideas to support the development of an [Integrated National Transport Strategy](#) for England, and contributing to the composite Railfuture response to the Call for Ideas closing on 20 February.

~ attending the [drop-in events](#) for Lewes District Council's first-phase consultation on its draft Lewes District [Local Plan - Lewes 2040](#) (ie excluding the area within the South Downs National Park), and submitting our response by consultation close on 28 February.

~ attending the [pop-up events](#) for Transport for the South East's 'Your voices' survey about its refreshed Transport Strategy, closing 7 March.

**Our vision for Railfuture:** *An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision makers come for advice, which rail users are proud to join and recommend.*

## What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-January edition of **inter-railse** no.79, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

~ attended the final public drop-in events for the latest non-statutory consultation by [East West Rail Company](#).

~ contributed to the composite Railfuture response to the non-statutory [consultation by East West Rail](#).

~ contributed to the third in-person Transport Forum of Transport for the South East, framing a composite Forum response to the [refreshed Transport Strategy](#).

~ held regular meetings of our Herts & Beds and Eastern Divisions [online](#), Sussex & Coastway and London Metro Divisions in-person.

~ held a regular monthly meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, [online](#).

~ run a regional branch / Kent Division campaigns stall



at the annual Erith Model Railway Society exhibition, at the Harris Garrard Academy near Abbey Wood station.

## Railfuture is 'in the news' / 'making the news' / sharing 'news and views'

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture members making, not just watching, things happen in our website [media extracts](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture making, not just reporting, the news through our [press releases](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture's and others' reports and thoughts published in our [website articles](#).

~ Railfuture is active on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [LinkedIn](#).

## Railfuture publications by email

~ All members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation eg rail user group or similar, or a business – are being encouraged to receive [Railwatch](#) direct to their Inbox immediately on publication by logging-in at [Member services](#); it's accompanied by branch newsletter [railse](#).

~ All members can receive Railfuture's regular monthly newsletter [Rail User Express](#) and occasional [Rail Action](#) bulletin direct to their Inbox upon publication.

This branch e-newsletter is free, published monthly and distributed to branch members with their GDPR consent Items for our newsletters, and our branch Local Action column in [railwatch](#), to [londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk)

# railfuture

*Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for Britain's railway and rail users*

Website: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) Twitter: [@RailfutureLSE](#)

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## Calendar of forthcoming diary dates



**Monday 3 February** in Peacehaven, **Wednesday 5 February** in Lewes, **Thursday 6 February** in Cooksbridge, and **Saturday 8 February** in Newhaven. Drop-in events for first phase of current consultation on draft Lewes District [Local Plan - Lewes 2040](#) (excludes area in South Downs National Park) to 28 February.



**Monday 3 February** in Southsea library, Portsmouth, **Wednesday 5 February** in Jubilee library, Brighton, **Wednesday 12 February** in Southampton central library, **Thursday 13 February** in Canterbury library, **Monday 24 February** in Guildford library, and **Tuesday 25 February** in Wokingham library. Daytime pop-up events for residents, businesses and interest groups to learn more about the draft Transport Strategy, and ['Your voices'](#) survey to Friday 7 March.

**Thursday 6 February** Sussex & Coastway Division evening meeting, [online](#). [Invite non-members!](#)

**Saturday 15 February** Kent Division afternoon meeting, [online](#). [Invite non-members!](#)

**Saturday 22 February** Railfuture East Anglia regional branch open afternoon meeting and members' AGM, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

**Thursday 27 February** DfT roadshow for Integrated National Transport Strategy Call for Ideas, Brighton.

**Saturday 1 March** Herts & Beds Division in-person morning meeting, King's Cross. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Saturday 15 / Sunday 16 March** L&SE regional branch campaigns stall at Alexandra Palace, N22 7AY.

**Monday 31 March** Closing date for nominations for 2025/26 regional branch committee.

**Saturday 12 April** Annual open morning meeting with speaker/s, followed after lunch by members' AGM.

Full details in our [Events](#) and [Rail dates](#) web pages.