

MRUG AGM 27.5.2021

Melksham
rail user group

Melksham Rail User Group -19:30 via Zoom

These notes at <http://melksh.am/agm2021>

- *** Welcome
- *** Apologies for Absence
- *** Previous meetings
- *** Chair's report
- *** Treasurer's report
- *** Election of officers.
- *** Proposal - to Melksham Transport User Group
- *** Any other business
- *** Date of next AGM - 18 May 2022, provisionally

*** Welcome

*** Apologies for Absence

*** Previous meetings

Notes of meeting - 17th March 2021

http://www.mrug.org.uk/lib/MRUG_20210317_mins.pdf

Minutes of previous AGM - 22nd May 2019

<http://www.mrug.org.uk/lib/minutes190522AGM.pdf>

Melksham rail user group

We had planned for great promotion of public transport and station adoption work during the period, but the arrival of Coronavirus and subsequent lockdowns and restrictions threw our plans asunder.

Through various lockdowns, we have found ourselves mandated to discourage unnecessary travel and give people covid safe advise - not only online, but also at the occasional open air event held when things were a little more open. Leaflets and banners were produced and successfully used at these events, but the speed and nature of change have been such that we have had less use out of them than in a normal year. Signage at the station and in the Town Centre bus stops has been updated far more frequently than the twice-a-year timetable changes!

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We have continued to meet every 2 months - though online via Zoom rather than in person, and indeed we have used our Zoom account to great effect to talk with guest and experts from out of the area in a way not previously practical. A good year of planning ahead - we look forward to encouraging travel by public transport again this summer, and also to help build back better.

Coronavirus has effected the lives of every one of us, and key user group members have spent more time in touch than was the case before - support of questions from members and the general public . Our age profile is such that our best behaviour at time of restriction was to stay home.

MRUG has become far more active with buses as well as trains. The new 271/2/3 timetables meet the request we made (probably because they make common sense, not in deference of any 'demand' from us) and in the coming year, we plan to evolve into the "Melksham Transport" user group. We will continue to volunteer at the station and be the official friends group there. We are of course supporting the TransWilts Community Rail Partnership in their development of the infrastructure at the station, whose activities are complementary to ours, several members being associated with both groups.

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All in all - a very different but busy year, and a big THANK YOU to the council for your support. It has been doubly important because we were unable to run our Santa trip last December, and weren't able to make a modest income to boost our funds from that - only the second time in 20 years that it has not run.

We have become experts at refactoring on the fly; we anticipate a very busy year ahead, promoting and volunteering as we encourage people back - subject to Covid rules and restrictions. The guidance for use of public transport may discourage use of buses and trains even where it is safe to do so, and we hope to address this. In the longer term, we are looking very much towards zero carbon, sustainability and clean air agendas which are and will continue to set significant growth requirements on public transport. Addressing this is a core part of our activity, and we plan to do so along volunteer, community and budget lines successfully established over many years.

Treasurer's Report

Melksham rail user group

Melksham Rail Users Group
Accounts 1st May 2020 to 30th April 2021

http://www.mrug.org.uk/MRUG_Accounts_2021.pdf

- * No room hire costs; zoom account instead
- * Limited printing and publicity spend
 - Lack of timetables to publicise
 - Lack of circulation of them
- * No income shown from Melksham Without PC
 - Because of how elections and year ends have fallen
- * No Santa trip – typical spend £300, income £500
- * We expect a very busy Summer and Autumn

Balance brought forward		2640.70
Income	303.91	
Expenditure	457.14	
		(153.23)
Balance carried forward		2487.47

Income		
Grant: Melksham Town Council	300.00	
Interest on B.S. Account	3.91	
Total	303.91	

Expenditure		
Registration for Zoom meetings	119.90	
Affiliation fees	30.00	
Printing	113.99	
Insurance	175.84	
Station cleaning materials	17.41	
Total	457.14	

Election of Officers

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Special "Thank you" to John Hamley

Propose – Chair, Treasurer, Minute Secretary, Admin secretary Vice Chair and projects

Welcome to

Pat Aves and Tom Price as Melksham Town Council reps,

Mark Harris as rep for Melksham Without Parish Council

Upcoming general meetings ...

14th July / Zoom with Union Church Hall too or other venue if feasible

2nd or 3rd Wednesday in September

2nd or 3rd Wednesday in November

Caucus team to meet, early June

Proposal – to become
“Melksham Transport User Group”

Melksham
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Long-discussed rename from Melksham RAIL User Group to Melksham TRANSPORT User Group.

Reasoning - Public and sustainable transport for a USER Group is about total journeys be they by bus, train or a combination.

Increasing bus activity and expertise, and the need to promote, inform, campaign and support across the Melksham catchment transcends modes and this is a natural change so that we can share our expertises across all modes.

MRUG (or MTUG proposed) will remain the Community Rail Network station adopter for Melksham Station, and a corporate member of the TransWilts CRP. It will additionally work as appropriate with bus stop / furniture owners and maintainers in adopting bus stops and supporting their services too.

The constitution at <http://www.mrug.org.uk/constitution.pdf> dated 2016 will be updated to reflect the changes and will be presented at the next meeting.

Any other business

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* Noting major changes in both bus and rail upcoming - the Williams/Shapps report back to (Great) British Railways, Bus Back Better with a major change on the buses, the need to get people back after Covid and to move toward zero carbon in a very different world

*** Date of next meeting – 14th July 2021.

*** Date of next AGM - 18th May 2022, provisionally

Melksham [rail/transport/] User Group – 27.5.2021

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- *** Welcome
- *** Hub and TransWilts update
- *** Station Adoption
- *** Reminder of CRN code of conduct to include:
- *** Train performance; Rail Industry report
- *** Marketing / Events / outings / publicity
- *** Campaigning and Consultations

Hub and TransWilts update

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- Report from Peter Blackburn for TransWilts

Station Adoption

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- Newcomer's overview at

http://www.mrug.org.uk/mkm_transport_snapshot.pdf

- Poster Board and timetables for racks
- Station litter pick, shelter cleans, etc
- Planter care
- Reports, customer care during visits, etc
- Hub have promised to make water, tool storage, WiFi available

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Melksham

Melksham Train Times

from 16th May 2021 to 11th December 2021

Melksham rail user group


At the time of writing, local trains are running as normal but **long distance connections** are subject to change due to engineering issues with the Intercity Express Trains.


Advise is that you'll be able to travel on and from Monday 17th May. We will update this poster with connections in due course

WESTBURY - MELKSHAM - SWINDON

Direction	Westbury	Melksham	Swindon
Westbury	07:00	07:15	07:30
Melksham	07:20	07:35	07:50
Swindon	07:40	07:55	08:10

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Next train departures  <http://melkshamtrains>

Taxi numbers  <http://melkshamtaxi>

Trains operated by Great Western Railway www.gwr.com


Train Times

GWR

Summary of timetable changes

Summary of timetable changes for the period 16th May 2021 to 11th December 2021. This includes information on Intercity Express Train (IET) services, local services, and specific engineering works. The poster features several maps of the railway network and detailed service descriptions.

Knorr-Bremse

More information about Knorr-Bremse www.knorr-bremse.co.uk | in | 

Code of conduct reminder

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The Chair of TransWilts has asked me to remind members of the CRN code of conduct; Please

- Clearly identify as a volunteer when working at the station (Pink Tabard)
- Let Jo at GWR know you're there / what you're doing (I have details)
- Be polite and helpful to passengers who are there
- Obey directions from rail industry (GWR, NR) staff and contractors
- Stick to public areas and don't go near platform edge / do anything dangerous
- Keep an eye out 'security' - a.k.a. vulnerable people, antisocial, packages
- Positive (only) support / interaction with other CRN members and rail industry "team".
- At present avoid busy times
- At present, light gardening and litter picking only

Current train use

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- Wider services
- IET issues
- Reservations
- Travel Rules

To note – loadings levelled out;
20:06 from Westbury last Sat



Marketing / Events / Outings / Publicity

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- 29th, Midland Pulman
- 31st - Hub open day
- 1st June / Volunteer week
- 3rd June - TransWilts member and stakeholder

Food and River Festival / Village Fetes / Melksham Maker Market

30th June – Community Rail Network promotion of travel for this summer

- Display timetables
- MIN and online; Timetable dbn?
- PfP (7th June to 28th July) and other data gathering, especially on buses
- Imber
- Weymouth
- Santa
- CRN awards

Questions, answers – and add any other comments you'd like to make!

YOUR OWN HABITS & PREFERENCES

Where relevant, please answer based on your own pre-COVID actions and habits.

1. Where do you live (tick as appropriate)?

- Melksham Town, Melksham Without, Abworth, Broughton Gifford, Bulkington, Great Hinton, Kewell, Poulshot, Seend, Semington, Streepie Ashton

2. We would like answers from those who live and/or work in one of the communities listed above. So please provide your postcode as appropriate.

Home: Work:

3. How many people live permanently in your household:

4. Do you have any of these in your household? If so, how many:

- Car—petrol, Motorbike, Car—hybrid, Cycle, Car—diesel, Van/commercial vehicle, Car—electric

5. Which (if any) of these factors were important in deciding where you live?

- Within cycling/walking distance of work, Within walking distance of local shops, Within catchment area of local schools, Near the rail service, Being able to work at home or at a local co-working space, Appeal of the locality/quality of life considerations, None, Other (please specify):

6. (PRE-COVID) How often do you travel through Melksham town?

Times per week (Mon-Fri): Times per weekend:

7. (PRE-COVID) Why do you travel through Melksham town?

- Work, School run, Recreation, Shopping, Personal, Other (please specify):

8. (PRE-COVID) How often do you travel into Melksham town?

Times a week (Mon-Fri): Times per weekend:

9. (PRE-COVID) Why do you travel into Melksham town?

- Work, Access to onward travel (e.g. rail), School run, Recreation, Shopping, Personal, Other (please specify):

10. (PRE-COVID) How do you travel most often into Melksham?

- Car / vehicle, Bus, Train, Walk, Cycle, Taxi, Motorbike

11. (PRE-COVID) If you have children at school, how do they get there?

- Car / vehicle, School transport, Public transport, Cycle, Foot, Taxi

12. (PRE-COVID) Do you find access to shops and services in the town centre:

- Easy, OK, Not easy, Any other comment:

13. (PRE-COVID) Do you find walking around the town centre:

- Very safe, OK, Not safe, Any other comment:

14. (PRE-COVID) Do you find cycling around the town centre:

- Very safe, OK, Not safe, Any other comment:

15. (PRE-COVID) If driving into the town centre, where do you normally park?

- Public paying car park? Which one: Supermarket / free car park? Which one: On-street parking? Do you have any comments on parking in the town?

16. Do you shop online through the Internet? What do you purchase?

- Clothes, Groceries, Takeaway food, Books, electrical, IT, Other: (please specify):

17. How often do you have an online delivery to your house?

- More than once a week, Once a week, Once/twice a month, Rarely, What would it take to do more of your shopping in Melksham and less online?

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

18. (PRE-COVID) Do you use Melksham Railway station? If so, do you use it:

- Daily, Weekly, Occasionally, Do not use

19. (PRE-COVID) How do you get to the railway station?

- Car, Bus, Taxi, Motorbike, Cycle, Walk

20. (PRE-COVID) Do you find access to the railway station:

- Easy, OK, Not easy, Any other comment:

21. (PRE-COVID) How do you feel about accessing the railway station by using the underpass under the main road (A350)?

22. (PRE-COVID) Why do you use the railway station?

- Travel to/for work, Shopping in other towns, Other personal use, Do not use

23. (PRE-COVID) Where do you travel to on the railway most frequently from Melksham?

24. (PRE-COVID) What would encourage you to use the railway more often?

25. (PRE-COVID) Do you use bus/coach services? If so, do you use them:

- Daily, Weekly, Occasionally, Do not use

26. (PRE-COVID) Why do you use bus/coach services?

- Travel to/for work, Shopping in other towns, Other personal use, Do not use

22. (PRE-COVID) Which bus/coach service do you use most frequently from Melksham and where do you travel to on that service?

Bus No: Destination:

24. (PRE-COVID) What would encourage you to use buses/coaches more often?

A NEW BYPASS FOR MELKSHAM?

25. Proposed A350 Melksham bypass. Wiltshire Highways has been consulting on a new bypass. It is designed to reduce traffic travelling through the town centre – and so improve air quality in the town centre, while opening up new opportunities for cycling and pedestrian access. (See www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-a350-melksham-bypass).

Do you support the idea of a bypass?

- Yes, No

Can you explain your answer?

CLIMATE CHANGE & THE ENVIRONMENT

26. Is the state of the environment a key concern?

The climate emergency is real and requires us all to take action to reduce our carbon footprint. What are your key concerns?

- Air pollution, Chemical pollution, Biodiversity loss, Global warming, Resource depletion, Population, Not concerned

Other:

27. Would you like to see more planting of trees & shrubs in the town centre?

- Yes, No

If yes, what kind of planting would you like to see, and where?

28. Thinking about the movement of people and goods, what would be your three most important actions in Melksham to address the climate emergency?

- 1., 2., 3.

MAY WE CONTACT YOU?

We may wish to contact you to learn more about some of your views, so please consider providing your name and contact details. All data is held and managed in line with Government legal requirements (UK GDPR).

Name: Address:

Email: Phone:

ANY OTHER COMMENTS: Please leave any other comments relating to movement. Feel free to staple extra sheets to this form before you return it! Thank you.

Melksham rail user group

Melksham Transport User Group



PUBLIC transport use has been decimated over the last year. The Melksham Rail User Group rebrands to the Melksham Transport User Group at our AGM on 27th May, public Zoom meeting via <http://mrug.org.uk> at 19:30, all welcome.

We will be publishing and promoting train and bus use as we travel again, suggesting and arranging trips and talks, and working forward for future improvements with Great Western Railway and Bus Back Better. It's going to be a busy summer. We are a free and friendly group and new members very welcome. Contact - Graham Ellis (Vice Chair) via info@mrug.org.uk or on 01225 708225.

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Social Media

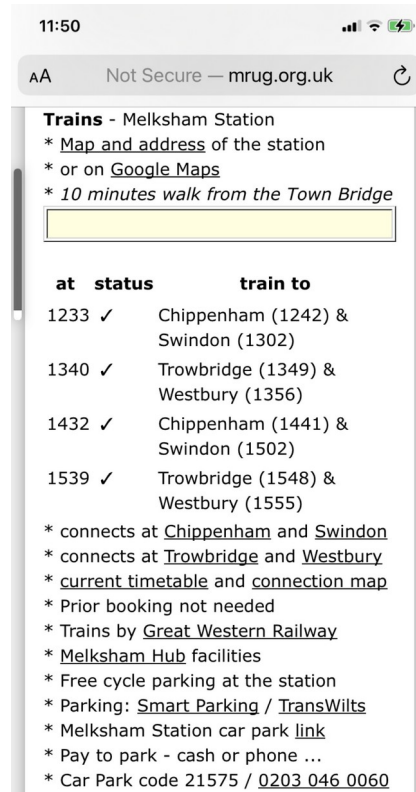
Melksham rail user group

Web Site

- including dynamic user data
/ mobile phone pages

Facebook

Twitter



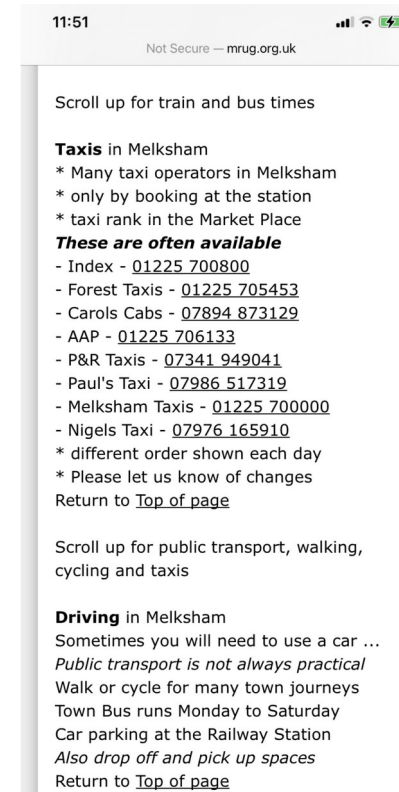
11:50 Not Secure — mrug.org.uk

Trains - Melksham Station

- * [Map and address](#) of the station
- * or on [Google Maps](#)
- * *10 minutes walk from the Town Bridge*

at	status	train to
1233	✓	Chippenham (1242) & Swindon (1302)
1340	✓	Trowbridge (1349) & Westbury (1356)
1432	✓	Chippenham (1441) & Swindon (1502)
1539	✓	Trowbridge (1548) & Westbury (1555)

- * connects at [Chippenham](#) and [Swindon](#)
- * connects at [Trowbridge](#) and [Westbury](#)
- * [current timetable](#) and [connection map](#)
- * Prior booking not needed
- * Trains by [Great Western Railway](#)
- * [Melksham Hub](#) facilities
- * Free cycle parking at the station
- * Parking: [Smart Parking](#) / [TransWilts](#)
- * Melksham Station car park [link](#)
- * Pay to park - cash or phone ...
- * Car Park code 21575 / [0203 046 0060](#)



11:51 Not Secure — mrug.org.uk

Scroll up for train and bus times

Taxis in Melksham

- * Many taxi operators in Melksham
- * only by booking at the station
- * taxi rank in the Market Place

These are often available

- Index - [01225 700800](#)
- Forest Taxis - [01225 705453](#)
- Carols Cabs - [07894 873129](#)
- AAP - [01225 706133](#)
- P&R Taxis - [07341 949041](#)
- Paul's Taxi - [07986 517319](#)
- Melksham Taxis - [01225 700000](#)
- Nigels Taxi - [07976 165910](#)

- * different order shown each day
- * Please let us know of changes

Return to [Top of page](#)

Scroll up for public transport, walking, cycling and taxis

Driving in Melksham

Sometimes you will need to use a car ...

Public transport is not always practical

Walk or cycle for many town journeys

Town Bus runs Monday to Saturday

Car parking at the Railway Station

Also drop off and pick up spaces

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Campaign & Consultation

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- New look services - what does GBR mean

<https://communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/White-paper-summary-for-members-FINAL-200521.pdf>

- Go-op proposals (3 trains in the afternoon initially; lots to do and company has a history of being of not meeting deadlines. Been going since 2008, but then we shocked in 2013 by actually getting somewhere!)
- Looking under GBR for hourly Swindon to Southampton
- Bus Back Better
- Neighbourhood plan (++), Local area plan, road building plan(+/-) climate strategy
- Making cycling, walking, climate contacts

GBR — but will it mean fewer trains?

More expensive journeys for many? Closures?

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What will Great British Railways mean for me?



Increase of pay-as-you-go journeys

Tap in and tap out to travel, no need for paper tickets



Digital tickets

Investment in online and mobile ticketing



Simplified fares

New system agreed with ministers



New flexible season tickets

Launching this summer, these tickets will allow travel on any eight days in a 28-day period



New spaces for bikes

GBR will increase space on existing trains and people will be able to book bike spaces



Compensation simplified

Complete roll-out of Delay Repay 15 scheme (25% refund for trains delayed 15-29 minutes)



Accessibility increased

GBR will invest to improve standards

GBR – SRA2?

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- The Devil is in the detail
- The SRA reduced us from 5 to 2 trains a day in 2006.
- Usage figures are much better now
- We now have a CRP and greater visibility

(there were just 7 responses in 2004 to the consultation about our line)

We would be wise to be vigilant!

The scale of the issue?

5 towns, 4 good services

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Departures from Trowbridge to				Departures from Melksham to				Departures from Warminster to				Departures from Westbury to				Departures from Bradford-on-Avon to			
Time	Destination	Plat	Expected	Time	Destination	Plat	Expected	Time	Destination	Plat	Expected	Time	Destination	Plat	Expected	Time	Destination	Plat	Expected
16:31	Andover	2	On time	14:32	Chippenham	1	On time	14:23	Andover	2	On time	14:13	Andover	2	On time	16:25	Andover	2	On time
15:47	Ashchurch	1	On time	14:32	Swindon	1	On time	15:30	Ashchurch	1	On time	15:41	Ashchurch	2	On time	15:53	Ashchurch	1	On time
13:47	Avoncliff	1	On time	13:40	Trowbridge	1	On time	15:30	Avoncliff	1	On time	13:41	Avoncliff	3	On time	13:53	Avoncliff	1	On time
16:31	Basingstoke	2	On time	13:40	Westbury	1	On time	13:43	Barnham	2	On time	14:13	Basingstoke	2	On time	16:25	Basingstoke	2	On time
13:47	Bath Spa	1	On time					14:23	Basingstoke	2	On time	13:41	Bath Spa	3	On time	13:53	Bath Spa	1	On time
13:47	Bradford-on-Avon	1	On time					14:01	Bath Spa	1	14:04	13:41	Bradford-on-Avon	3	On time	13:53	Bradford Parkway	1	On time
14:48	Bristol Parkway	1	On time					14:01	Bradford-on-Avon	1	14:04	14:41	Bristol Parkway	3	On time	13:53	Bristol Temple Mds	1	On time
13:47	Bristol Temple Mds	1	On time					13:43	Brighton	2	On time	13:41	Bristol Temple Mds	3	On time	15:18	Bruton	2	On time
15:25	Bruton	2	On time					15:30	Bristol Parkway	1	On time	15:33	Bruton	2	On time	14:54	Cam & Dursley	1	On time
14:48	Cam & Dursley	1	On time					14:01	Bristol Temple Mds	1	14:04	14:41	Cam & Dursley	3	On time	14:23	Cardiff Central	1	On time
14:17	Cardiff Central	1	On time					15:30	Cam & Dursley	1	On time	14:11	Cardiff Central	1	On time	15:18	Castle Cary	2	On time
15:25	Castle Cary	2	On time					14:01	Cardiff Central	1	14:04	13:53	Castle Cary	1	On time	15:53	Cheltenham Spa	1	On time
15:47	Cheltenham Spa	1	On time					15:30	Cheltenham Spa	1	On time	15:41	Cheltenham Spa	2	On time	15:18	Chetnole	2	On time
15:25	Chetnole	2	On time					13:43	Chichester	2	On time	15:33	Chetnole	2	On time	16:25	Clapham Junction	2	On time
14:22	Chippenham	1	On time					15:52	Clapham Junction	2	On time	14:16	Chippenham	3	On time	13:47	Cosham	2	On time
16:31	Clapham Junction	2	On time					13:43	Cosham	2	On time	15:44	Clapham Junction	3	On time	15:18	Dorchester West	2	On time
13:54	Cosham	2	On time					15:30	Dilton Marsh	1	On time	14:03	Cosham	1	On time	13:47	Fareham	2	On time
15:25	Dorchester West	2	On time					13:43	Fareham	2	On time	15:11	Dilton Marsh	3	On time	14:23	Filton Abbey Wood	1	On time
13:54	Fareham	2	On time					14:01	Filton Abbey Wood	1	14:04	15:33	Dorchester West	2	On time	13:47	Fratton	2	On time
14:17	Filton Abbey Wood	1	On time					14:11	Fratton	2	On time	13:53	Exeter St Davids	1	On time	13:53	Freshford	1	On time
13:54	Fratton	2	On time					15:30	Freshford	1	On time	14:03	Fareham	1	On time	14:18	Frome	2	On time
13:47	Freshford	1	On time					15:30	Gloucester	1	On time	14:11	Filton Abbey Wood	1	On time	14:54	Gloucester	1	On time
14:25	Frome	2	On time					14:23	Grateley	2	On time	14:03	Fratton	1	On time	13:53	Keynsham	1	On time
14:48	Gloucester	1	On time					17:30	Great Malvern	1	On time	13:41	Freshford	3	On time	14:39	Lawrence Hill	1	On time
13:47	Keynsham	1	On time					13:43	Havant	2	On time	14:36	Frome	2	On time	16:25	London Waterfloo	2	On time
14:32	Lawrence Hill	1	On time					13:43	Hove	2	On time	14:41	Gloucester	3	On time	15:18	Maiden Newton	2	On time

Train information updated: 26/05/2021 13:36:10

Train information updated: 26/05/2021 13:35:01

Train information updated: 26/05/2021 13:30:39

Train information updated: 26/05/2021 13:36:10

Train information updated: 26/05/2021 13:37:44

Go-op proposal 2021 to start May 2022

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rail user group





April 2021

TOWARDS A CLIMATE STRATEGY FOR WILTSHIRE

Summary Discussion Document

Wiltshire Council

Proposals

It is recommended that:

- (i) The response to the initial public consultations and the views of the town and local parish councils are noted and taken into account in the scheme development.
- (ii) The following options should not be included in the short list of options for further consultation for the reasons set out in the report:
 - Non-road options (Options 1 to 6)
 - Improvement of the existing road (Options 7a, 7b and 7c)
 - Western routes (Options 8a, 8b, 9a, 9b and 9c)
 - Short eastern routes (Options 10a and 10b)
 - Longest eastern route (Option 10d) and its variants
- (iii) Further public consultation should be undertaken on a short list of options comprising the long eastern route (Option 10c) and alternative alignments at the northern end which may be feasible.
- (iv) The possibility of improving walking and cycling facilities in conjunction with the scheme or separately should continue to be explored.
- (v) The views of the public, town and parish councils, Area Board and other organisations should be obtained on the short list of options in order to inform the future development of the scheme.

Partner Groups

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TWSW

WWRUG

Coffee Shop

RailFuture

FoSBR

Wilts Climate Alliance

AOB / Date of next meeting ...

This slide set at <http://melksh.am/agm2021>
also via the MRUG / MTUG website