

WIRRAL TRANSPORT USERS ASSOCIATION

Chairman's Report (for 2016-17) given at Birkenhead YMCA at the WTUA AGM on Monday evening 31.7.2017

4 0 About the Association

The committee meets from September - June on the second Tuesday of the month at 19.30 hrs in Port Sunlight Station offices.

Two excursions, organised by Angus, were run by the WTUA in 2017 - one to Bala Lake Railway and one to both the Rudyard Lake Narrow Gauge & North Staffordshire (Churnet Valley) Railways.

We consult with other committees of Rail User Groups and attend an area meeting in Liverpool (Liverpool City Region Rail User Groups Coordination Meeting) meeting Cllr. Liam Robinson afterwards.

We also attend Travelwatch NW thrice a year. Angus attends the Liverpool Airport Noise Committee keeping us in touch with developments at JLA. The Chester group set up by Chris Matheson MP was superseded by Gerard Rhodes of CWAC who invited some of us to talk about the Wales and Borders Franchise amongst other things. We assisted Merseytravel with a Park and Ride survey of stations on Merseyside.

Thanks to Dennis for acting as Minutes Secretary and for circulating copies of publications such as Local Transport Today and news articles.

Both the Newsletter and the website would be grateful for articles contributed by members.

4.1 About Transport Matters

There will be new services from N Merseyside. Halton Curve (Runcorn - Frodsham) work already started should be ready for next year (Dec. '18-Liverpool-S Parkway-Chester).

Wirral Line Loop tracks being replaced and completion of Station Refurbishment has taken place.

At Widnes (Ditton Junction) a new Alstom Train Care facility is being built.

Next month Lime Street will be closed for one week to add/extend some platforms to increase capacity. Trains will terminate before Lime Street from the Runcorn direction.

Wrexham-Bidston is in line for line speed improvements to provide service reliability. Town Meadow (West Kirby line) could have a new station if local councillors get their way.

Chester-Wrexham line redoubling work is completed and open but no new services yet. A new station is proposed at Wrexham North (a new major prison has opened here) on the remaining single track but this is likely to include further redoubling.

New trains have been ordered for Merseyrail.

A Community Rail Patnership is being set up to cover train services on the Chester-Warrington-Helsby-Hooton-Chester lines being based on the University of Chester site at the former Thornton Research Centre. A new station may be built for them.

Liverpool 2 Seaforth Post Panamax Container Terminal is finished but not yet in use. There is no rail connection to the quay but hopping trains will be used to assist with transport from the terminal.

