

Rail Travel Issues

The O&S Public Transport Inquiry members have expressed concern that there are a number of rail transport issues which they would like to raise with the appropriate rail operator. For the most part, the issues of concern have previously been raised by the Council and or the relevant Parish and Town Council and the MP for Chorley. This has taken the form of meetings with the rail operators, exchange of letters and exchange of e-mails in an attempt to address the issues of concern. However, to date the operators have maintained their position despite lobbying and challenge.

It was agreed by the Inquiry members that time has moved on since some of these issues were first raised and it was appropriate to raise them again via a letter with the appropriate rail operator signed by the Chair of the Inquiry and attempt to see if their position has altered.

A letter will be drafted and sent to Craig Harrop, Client & Stakeholder Manager, Northern Rail. The key issues/requests for improvement to be included in the letter are outlined below:

Rail Services to Adlington Lancashire

- A revision of the timetable to increase the current number of trains stopping at Adlington to two per hour following the forthcoming infrastructure improvements. Currently there is only one train per hour each way and two extra trains in the morning.
- The lack of a direct train to Piccadilly other than at peak times and also to Manchester Airport.

Buckshaw Railway Station.

- Consider allowing direct passenger access to the platform on the South Side of the railway station through the use of a ticketed barrier or alternatively the installation of a footbridge across the railway line from the south side to the North side to enable quicker access to the stations ticket office and to prevent pedestrians walking all the way around to access the station on the north side.

Chorley Railway Station

- As part of the re-vamp of Chorley railway station, the rail operator to contribute to the improvements to the Steeley lane underpass and the public realm in the immediate area surrounding the station (part of the Steeley lane Action Plan)
- An increase in the number of carriages using the line to reduce over-crowding at peak times.

A further letter will be drafted to Andrew Bliss at Network Rail. The key issue is:

Coppull Railway Station

- To re-visit the rail operators position on the re-opening of Coppull railway station should the feasibility study currently being undertaken by Lancashire County Council demonstrates there will be an increase in demand for a rail service over the next 10 years.
- To seek confirmation of when the two track section between Wigan and Balshaw Lane will be enhanced to four tracks and the new tracks possibly becoming the slow lines and the current two tracks the fasts, to support increases in passenger, freight and HS2 services. This would suggest a future Blackpool or Preston to Liverpool calling at Coppull.

Members are asked to confirm that these are the issues to be raised.