

Dear Member



## Contents

ANNUAL MEETING WITH FCC: MATERIALS .....	1
NEW THAMESLINK TRAIN ORDER ALMOST FINALISED .....	1
FCC UPDATES .....	2
<i>Performance</i> .....	2
<i>Oyster Cards Available at West Hampstead</i> .....	2
<i>Elstree Footbridge update</i> .....	3
<i>Cycle Safety First at Bedford and Luton</i> .....	3

## Annual meeting with FCC: materials

If you were unable to make the meeting on Monday, or were there, but would like an electronic copy, material from the meeting is available here:

1. FCC presentation: [aptu.org.uk/pdfs/aptumeeting2013\\_fcc.pdf](http://aptu.org.uk/pdfs/aptumeeting2013_fcc.pdf)
2. Network Rail presentation: [aptu.org.uk/pdfs/aptumeeting2013\\_networkrail.pdf](http://aptu.org.uk/pdfs/aptumeeting2013_networkrail.pdf)
3. Initial response to questions (not changed since version circulated on 6 June):  
[aptu.org.uk/pdfs/meeting2013\\_initialfccresponse.pdf](http://aptu.org.uk/pdfs/meeting2013_initialfccresponse.pdf)

We will follow up with FCC both as regards questions not responded to in the initial response and those asked in the meeting. Question responses that FCC / Network Rail took away from the meeting include:

- To consider making all trains to Sevenoaks & the Wimbledon loop Standard class only (i.e. First class would only be available on Brighton Mainline services [and presumably the 3 evening peak services to Rochester and Ashford]).
- Available train sets, the London Bridge blockade and Brighton Mainline capacity (how will a direct Brighton to London Bridge service be maintained, Brighton to Bedford trains maintained and enough rolling stock available for the current FCC service pattern?).
- Addressing water leaks at the Station Way Car Park in St Albans.
- Filling the gap in the roof between the stairs and the main platform canopy
- Seating and eastside access at Leagrave.

If you asked a question that FCC/ Network Rail said they would respond on later and it isn't listed above, please can you remind me of your question.

## New Thameslink train order almost finalised

The Department for Transport have announced that the Thameslink train order has been awarded to Siemens.

The Press Release can be read here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thameslink-deal-close-to-completion>; key extracts include:

The deal to build 1,140 new carriages for use on the Thameslink rail line came a step closer to completion today (14 June 2013) as the Department for Transport confirmed its decision to award the £1.6 billion contract to a consortium led by train manufacturer Siemens.

Before the contract award can take place there will now be a pause known as the Alcatel standstill period which will last at least 10 days.

The £1.6 billion rolling stock project is part of a £6 billion upgrade .....

A good description of how the Alcatel standstill period works can be found on Islington Council’s website: <http://goo.gl/xFzCw>.

As regards timing, the recent National Audit Office report had this to say “The Department expects to let a contract shortly which will still require Siemens to deliver the first trains by December 2015 and the last trains by 2018”. After arrival, there will no doubt be periods of both running-in and driver training, so it would seem reasonable to expect the trains in service sometime in 2016.

I understand there to be a very complicated cascade of trains linked to both the Siemens order and the 3 interim orders of trains (December 2011: 130 carriages; December 2012: 40 carriages; due this summer: 116 carriages), so this may also influence the exact timing.

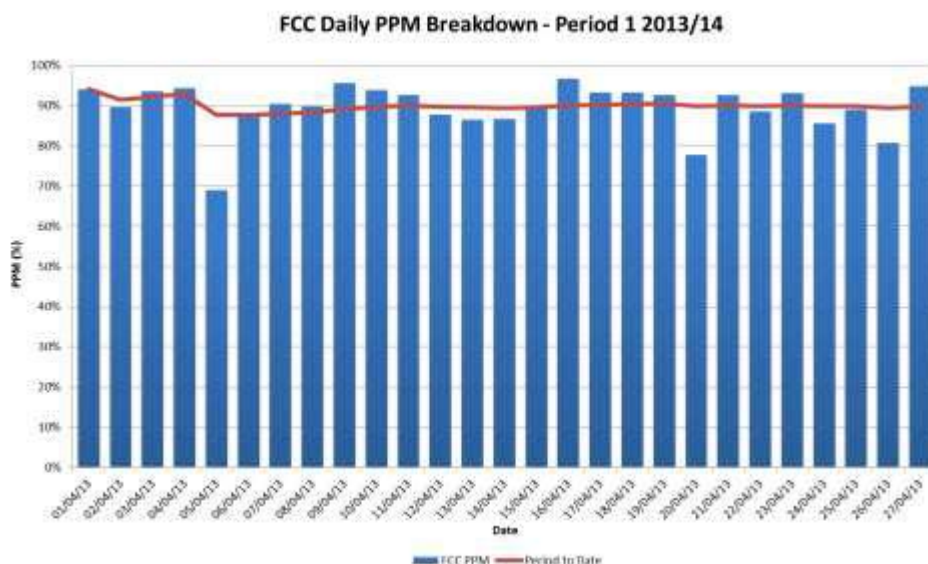
## FCC updates

### Performance

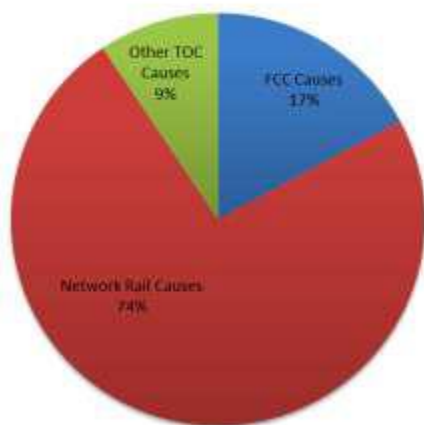
FCC have reported as follows:

Throughout April, performance was good. There were some infrastructure issues on both the Thameslink and Great Northern routes during this period, however in the majority of cases we were able to operate around these problems, minimising delays for passengers.

The largest incident affecting the Thameslink route was a fire alarm at Network Rail’s



### Delay Minute Attribution - Period



Three Bridges signal box. This occurred at the start of morning peak service on 26 April and resulted in the closure of the Brighton Mainline for more than an hour, causing severe disruption to all services. Brighton-bound trains were terminated in central London during this disruption; regular service was not fully restored until midday. There were also problems on 20 April due to a damaged overhead line near Elstree & Borehamwood, requiring Network Rail to make overnight repairs.

Our overall public performance measure (PPM) for the period was 89.71% against a target of 92.02%.

## Oyster Cards Available at West Hampstead

Following requests from customers and West Hampstead Amenity and Transport (WHAT), Oyster cards are now on sale from the ticket office at West Hampstead Thameslink station.

Passengers can purchase a new Oyster card in return for a £5 deposit. These cards can then be topped at the ticket vending machines throughout the station.

Deposits can be refunded at Transport for London Underground stations or Travel Information Centres.

## **Elstree Footbridge update**

FCC have advised us as follows:

Following my email about the start of work on Elstree & Borehamwood station's access for all footbridge on 20 March, I would like to provide you with an update on the project.

During exploratory groundwork, several unexpected utility cables were found buried underneath Platform 1 of the station. As these are related to critical pieces of railway infrastructure, the times when they can be disconnect and re-laid around the site of the new footbridge are limited. These cables as well as cameras and screens required for driver operated train dispatch are now expected to be relocated by the end of June.

Network Rail's contractors expect to be able to erect hoarding on the platforms from the end of June, with work beginning at the start of July. FCC, Network Rail and the contractors are working to ensure that this does not delay the completion of the project in April 2014.

## **Cycle Safety First at Bedford and Luton**

FCC and the British Transport Police stepped up their campaign against cycle crime at Bedford and Luton railway stations recently, when they handed out free high security locks and marked bikes with identity stamps.

FCC has invested more than £7,000 in high security locks which are handed out to cyclists. These locks are recommended by the British Transport Police and extremely difficult for potential cycle thieves to damage. FCC also fund application of traceable identification codes to bikes. These allow the police to easily identify the owner of a bike if it is lost or stolen.

Passengers have welcomed the initiative. One tweeted: "Thank you @btp\_uk for free bike marking at Bedford Station today and thank you @FirstCC for the free bike lock. Nice gesture. Appreciated :)"

The cycle safety campaign is part of a larger effort to keep our passengers safe and secure. FCC invests heavily in a dedicated team of British Transport Police officers to patrol our route and operate a 24/7 CCTV centre in Edmonton.

Regards

*Neil*

Neil Middleton

16 June 2013