

## **Whatton in the Vale Parish Council/Aslockton Parish Council**

Minutes of a joint Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday June 29, 2009, at the Jubilee Hall, Whatton, at 7.45pm

The chairman of Whatton in the Vale Parish Council, Coun. Gregg Redford, chaired the meeting and welcomed 54 residents from the two parishes and Notts County Council member Coun. Martin Suthers.

**Chairman's Welcome:** Coun. Redford welcomed those present and introduced Coun. Martin Suthers (Notts County Council member), Mr Jim Bamford, Rail Officer for Notts County Council, Brian Crawford, Chairman of Aslockton Parish Council, and David Horn, Commercial Director for East Midlands Trains.

Whatton in the Vale Parish Council clerk Mike Elliott and Aslockton Parish Council clerk Amanda George were also present.

**Chairman's Opening Remarks:** Coun. Redford opened the meeting by recalling the joint parish council consultation that had taken place in the previous year when East Midlands Trains had announced a reduction in rail services stopping at Aslockton. He said the volume of objections had underlined the support there was for the rail service from their local station.

**Participants Opening Remarks:** Mr Bamford, the Rail Officer for Notts County Council, said their aim was to obtain the best train services possible for residents and they had been actively concerned in talks in 2008 in relation to the cuts that were imposed in December last year. He praised the work of the two parish councils for staging such an effective campaign to oppose the changes.

He said he had informed the County Council of the very strong opposition there was in relation to cuts at Aslockton and had told members that the efforts by local people to oppose them were so strong it was obvious they would not be giving up their fight.

Mr Horn, the Commercial Director for East Midland Trains, said they had monitored the position carefully as far as Aslockton station went and were well aware of the strength of support aimed at getting a better service and of the very effective campaign that had staged.

He said that because of the effort of those involved it had been agreed that the company would introduce a trial scheme from December this year to put into operation additional trains stopping at the station. He said there would be eight additional trains a day, with 5 westbound and three eastbound, and taking the total number for a day to 21.

Mr Horn said he hoped the trial would be successful and there would be support from passengers in helping to restore the services that were deleted last December. He said they were looking for 15 to 20 per cent more passenger usage of the station.

He said the service they offered to a particular station was not geared to the population it served but to the number of tickets they sold for it.

Coun. Suthers said there had been a decline in the number of passenger using Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent stations and this, he thought, tied in to the fact there were good bus services offered in both those villages.

Mr Horn said the trial would be for a period of two years.

Mr Bamford said they at the County Council were happy to support the trial being staged by East Midland Trains and would assist in its promotion. He estimated that an additional 3000 seats needed to be sold to passengers to ensure the success of the trial.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.