

To RRUG Members by e-mail and for publication on the RRUG Website - 7th February 2015:

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Date: Wednesday 11th March 2015

Venue: Age UK Warwickshire, The Claremont Centre, 43 Clifton Road, Rugby, CV21 3QE.

Time: doors open at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

Members' Meeting - 7.30pm to 8.45pm

This will be a meeting with a local focus. Rugby Station Manager, Helen Reid, from Virgin Trains has agreed to attend, and we have also invited a representative from British Transport Police.

We are happy to receive questions in advance relating to station issues and the role of the British Transport Police, which can be sent in by email using the "Contact Us" Secretary link on the RRUG website.

All RRUG members are welcome. If you are not an RRUG member but would like to attend this meeting, you can join at the door for the annual membership fee of £5.

Annual General Meeting, "YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY REQUIRED"

The AGM will follow the Members' Meeting and once again Members are invited to put themselves forward as candidates to join the Committee. But, consider the following before making any decision.

Since coming together in 2005, RRUG has become well established and is well known amongst the railway industry and the local media. The Group's ability to influence change on behalf of Rugby rail users depends on having a strong voice to ensure our message is understood by the train operating companies, Network Rail, politicians, at both local and national level, the Department for Transport and the business community.

There is a growing importance to keep up the pressure as Rugby grows in size with a demand for more train services and increased journey opportunity. In addition the Group will need to be pro-active in consultations surrounding the 2017 West Coast Main Line franchise renewal and understand the potential impact that HS2 will have on current West Coast services, including the disruption that may occur during the remodelling of Euston station. More people travelling by train also has implications for Rugby station and its environs, including better access for public transport and cyclists and car parking. The need to engage better with Members and Rugby rail users generally couldn't be clearer.

Over time, some of the existing committee members no longer commute regularly by train, having either retired or moved to work elsewhere. As a result, the Group needs new people to get involved, particularly those who are best able to represent the interests of regular rail users.

If you think you can help the Group deal with future challenges, then now is the time to act. There are two ways you can help.

First, Members can put themselves forward for election to the Committee. Meetings are held bi-monthly;

or

Second, Members can put themselves forward as someone willing to assist the Group on a specific issue without formally becoming an elected Committee Member. This might involve joining a sub-committee that would meet on an 'as required' basis. The Group's activities include:

- Local Rail Issues (station and environs, including cycle provision and parking);
- Strategic Rail Issues (campaign to reinstate direct fast services to the north; 2017 West Coast Main Line franchise renewal; impact of HS2);
- Events (organising visits; arranging speakers for Members' Meetings); and
- Communication (website; social media; leaflets and posters; press).

For example, two important areas are:

- Assistance with developing the use of social media to enable more effective engagement with Members and Rugby rail users generally; and
- Assistance in providing regular feedback about services, in particular between Rugby and Birmingham.

If you wish to be considered for the Committee, please send your nomination by e-mail using the "Contact Us" Secretary link on the RRUG website by no later than Sunday 8th March 2015.

If you wish to express an interest in helping the Group on a more informal basis, then please send an e-mail also using the "Contact us" link on the website. Please state your specific areas of interest and/or experience. To indicate the level of support to us before the AGM, please respond by Sunday 8th March if at all possible.