



A QUICK LOOK AT WHAT EAST HORSLEY PARISH COUNCIL'S RAILWAY TASK GROUP HAS BEEN DOING SINCE JUNE 2019

“RAILWAY TASK GROUP STEERING COMMITTEE” FOUNDED

This takes overall strategic responsibility for the Railway Task Group's operations and objectives. It also oversees the activities of the Friends of Effingham Junction Station and the Friends of Horsley Station. Key local rail service stakeholders are represented by members from East Horsley and West Horsley Parish Councils, Effingham Residents Association and Effingham Parish Council as well as the “Friends” groups for our two stations.

“FRIENDS” GROUPS FORMED

Under the Railway Task Group umbrella, the “Friends of Effingham Junction Station” and the “Friends of Horsley Station” have been formed.

COMMUNITY RAIL ADOPTION PROGRAMME JOINED

Both “Friends” groups have joined South Western Railway's Community Rail Adoption Programme. This opens the door to grants for station enhancement projects as well as giving us a “platform” (!) from which to make representations on general station affairs.

STATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS LAUNCHED

With the aid of grant monies from South Western Railway (SWR) and East and West Horsley Parish Councils plus in some cases assistance from local businesses such as Fiona Stephenson Designs and at Horsley Station always with the unstinting help and support of station master Richard Bunce, vibrant colour has come to both stations in the form of numerous planters.

INFORMATION HUB INSTALLED

With help from Horsley Countryside Preservation Society, SWR and East Horsley Parish Council an “Information Hub” has been launched in the Guildford bound waiting room at Horsley Station.

EFFINGHAM JUNCTION STATION DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Leveraging our burgeoning contacts SWR and Network Rail, pressure was successfully brought to bear for drain clearing works to be undertaken at Effingham Junction Station car park. So we bade farewell to the distinctly un ornamental ponds that frequently assailed motorists and pedestrians in winter.

BIO DIVERSITY PROJECT AT HORSLEY STATION

This project is to support bio diversity in the station grounds and promote an interest in the wildlife to be seen there. Watch out for more on this as we continue a dialogue with SWR.

PUBLIC LOO AT EFFINGHAM JUNCTION STATION

This facility suffered from bad signage and limited opening hours. Thanks to our bringing pressure to bear, the first has been improved whilst we are still working on the opening hours!

FIGHT FOR UPGRADED AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC LOOS AT HORSLEY STATION

These facilities, particularly the gents' toilets, are decrepit and suffer from accessibility challenges. In the absence of funding from cash strapped SWR we have had plans drawn up for a proper 21st century, level access facility. An application to a Surrey County Council community fund for £200,000 to pay for this failed, but now local developers look to have committed to paying the same sum for the same purpose in a planning gain agreement. So watch this space!

ACCESS ROAD AT EFFINGHAM JUNCTION STATION

The access arrangements to Effingham Junction Station car park off Howard Road are a mess. The approach road is too narrow for two way traffic, hence very dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. It is also cluttered with large red and white "temporary" plastic barriers which have been on site for many years and are out of keeping with the rural location. These challenges and restricted access into the car park make it practically impossible for special bus services and school buses to enter the car park and drop off and collect rail users near to the station facilities. Following an intensive campaign for improvements by the rail authorities, there are at last signs of movement, so stay tuned.

HORSLEY CYCLES GARDEN

The Horsley station entrance area has been transformed by a colourful replanting of a patch of land next to the Horsley Cycles shop. The Friends of Horsley Station made this happen, with considerable help from Fiona Stephenson Designs and Horsley Cycles' owner John, whose land it was.

LONDON BOUND LEVEL ACCESS FOR ALL AT BOTH OUR STATIONS

Astonishingly for the 21st century, there is no step-free access to the London-bound platform of either Effingham Junction Station or Horsley station. Two key RTG initiatives aim to fix these accessibility challenges at both stations. First the "Not just for wheel chair users" campaign uses eye catching icons to show that step free access is vital for many users including those with luggage, parents with young children, older rail users, cyclists and Mums to be. Off the back of this, the LOBLA ("London Bound Level Access") initiative is pushing hard for combined lift and bridge installations at both stations, using exciting graphics to show how they would look. After much campaigning we believe there are at last encouraging signs from the powers that be, but pressure continues to be applied.

JOIN US!

And all that's just for starters so more willing pairs of hands are always needed. If you would like to join us in making a real difference at our stations now and for future generations, contact parishcouncil@easthorsley.org