



Supporters Newsletter for the



Heritage Railway Trust

March 2015

Looking forward down the Bramley Line.

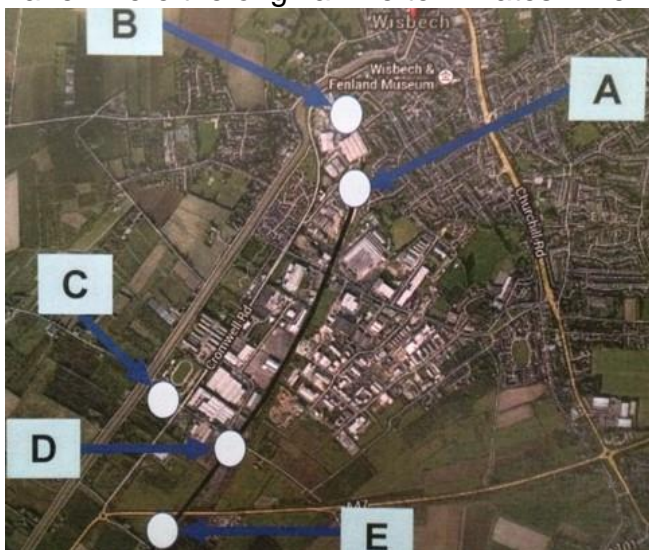
2020 Vision.

In April 2012, a project was launched by Fenland District Council called the Wisbech 2020 Vision. This was a wide ranging incentive to improve the north Fenland area in many aspects for the local population and beyond. There were several specific actions set out, with a range of dates by which it was hoped these may be achieved. The purpose was to improve tourism, retail, homes, employment, transport and skills. The initiative is supported by Cambridgeshire County Council and several other agencies, and three years after it's inception has gathered a great deal of support with progress becoming evident.

The reopening of the Bramley Line is seen as a key part of the Vision, as it will at last rail link the Wisbech area of Fenland to the rest of the country, in particular Cambridge, Stansted and London.

As part of the 2020 process, the Bramley Line Trust has been represented at two events this year.

The first, held at The Boathouse in Wisbech, was a stakeholder workshop to discuss various rail options for the town. The study covered benefits for increased employment, effects on housing, leisure activities, and more materially, possible sites for a station. Five possibilities were presented on the day, none of which included, to us, an obvious choice of a large vacant site on Weasenham Lane where the original line terminates. The map below shows the proposals;



A is a near town centre site at the end of Oldfield Lane, B is in the town centre in the Queens Road car park area, though how rail would access this is not clear, C is close to the current Tescos site, D is sited on the original line on a brownfield site 'inside' the A47 bypass, whilst E is situated south of the A47, well away from the town centre.

The workshop meeting was attended by representatives from Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council, Anglian Water, Network Rail, East Midlands Trains, Rail future, The Bramley Line Trust, and several other interested parties.

No final conclusions for the station were reached.

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BACK ON TRACK

The second meeting was billed as a 2020 Vision summit on the 13th March. Attended by many delegates from a wide range of local government, including the leaders of both Cambridgeshire County Council and Fenland District Council, local businesses, the local area MP, the event was sponsored by Anglian Water. A wide range of topics were under discussion, but the reopening of the rail link was clearly high on the local agenda. There was also mention of the opportunity for rail freight to return to the town, and many will remember that it was freight that kept the line open for many years after passenger traffic ceased. We'll be keeping a close eye on all developments, and lobbying to ensure the interests of local railway heritage (as represented by The Bramley Line) are incorporated in any future plans.

Website Management

Anyone who has been looking at our website over recent years will appreciate that it has been transformed into a very useful medium to show enthusiasts what is going on, with news and photos of the Bramley Line work, a newsletter reference log, easy access to membership applications and renewals etc. We are very grateful to our Webmaster for all the work he has done to achieve this, but now he wishes to move on to other interests and pass the site management on to a fresh pair of hands. So, we are looking for a new Webmaster (Web person) to take on the role. Whilst not too demanding on time, the successor would need a reasonable knowledge of website management, so if you are interested, or know anyone who may relish the challenge, please drop an email to the office address. We will be pleased to hear from you.



Follow Up.

Many members will recall the Trust being instrumental in finding a home for a grounded carriage found in a village near Kings Lynn. The carriage was taken on by the Tanfield Railway, near Newcastle upon Tyne, and is now in the early stages of restoration. A former North Eastern Railways vehicle dating from c1902, the restorers have uncovered the carriage number (left) from it's time working on the London and North Eastern Railway, post 1923.

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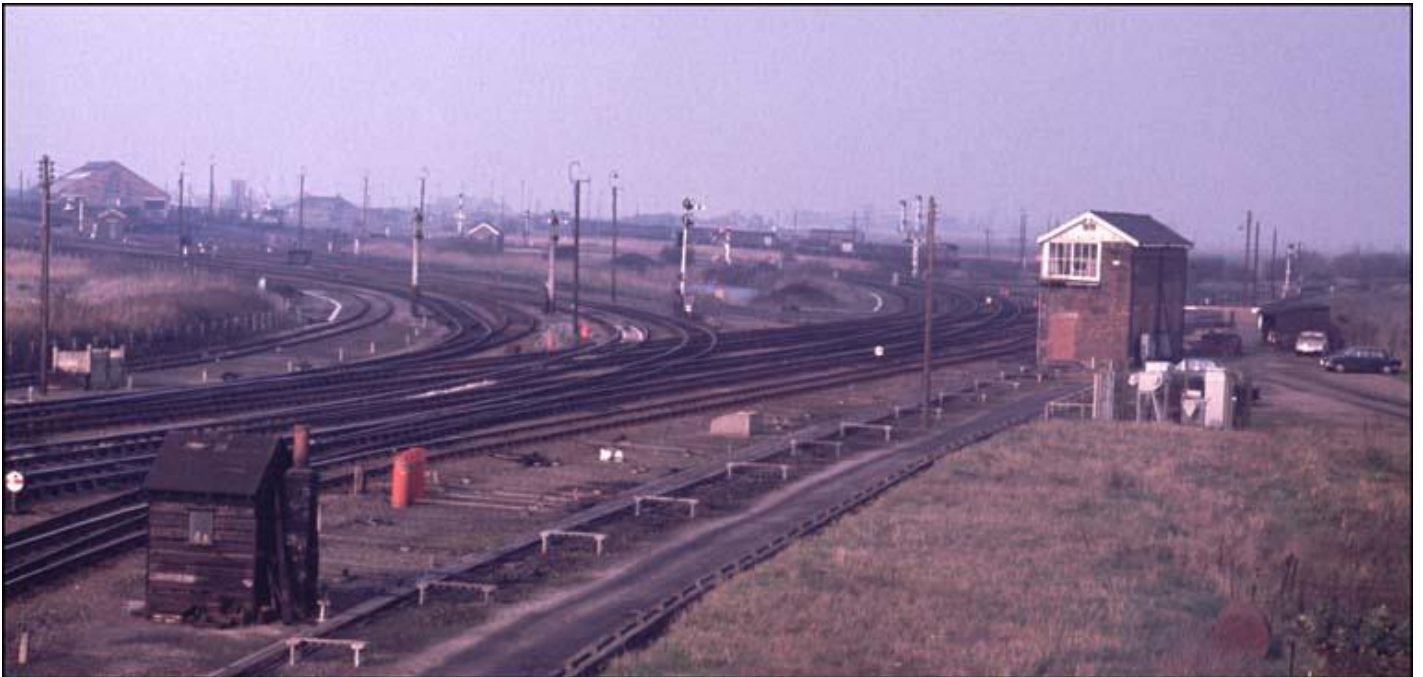
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Bramley Line Trust AGM- April 11th- 2pm.

The Annual General Meeting of The Bramley Line Trust is scheduled for Saturday April 11th, commencing at 2pm. This year the meeting will be held at **March Railway Station** in the rooms occupied by The Friends of March Railway Station. These rooms can be found on Platform 2. The Friends have done a great deal of work in enhancing several areas of the station, and are likeminded in maintaining heritage links with the local railway history.

If you have not been to a trust AGM before, why not try and make it this year. The meeting place is steeped in railway history, being within a stone's through of the site of the famous Whitemoor marshalling yards, at one point one of the largest such yards in Europe. Opening in 1929, the yards eventually covered 250 acres and contained 42 sidings working 24 hours a day. This AGM will be followed at 3pm by the AGM of the Limited Company.



March Whitemoor Marshalling Yards in the early 1970's.

March Membership Month.

March is also the month when annual memberships are due for renewal. Now is an exciting time for the work of the Bramley Line Trust. Never has there been more enthusiasm for the reopening of the Wisbech - March line. From the reports earlier in this newsletter, it is clear that after years of work by a faithful group of members, with the support of the wider significant membership, retaining licenced occupation of the line has helped to get to this point where bringing back a live rail service to Wisbech is firmly on the agenda. If your membership is due to expire, please renew it early, either by post, on the website, by Bacs with email notification, or even better, come to the AGM and renew it in person. All rates are the same, 0% inflation, £10 standard, £15 per couple.

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Roadshows.

Richard Dixon and Dave Nugent have several roadshows in the pipeline over the next couple of months, if you live near one, why not pay them a visit, they'll be pleased to see you.

April 5th at the Mid Suffolk Light Railway.

May 4th also at the Mid Suffolk.

May 17th at the Clacton Car Show.

June 7th back at the Mid Suffolk.

Later in the year

November 21st/22nd Shoeburyness Model Railway Club (Southend Leisure Centre).



View of March Railway Station, Platform 2.

Heritage Railway Association.

As a member of the Heritage Railway Association, the Bramley Line Heritage Railway Trust receives their periodic newsletters, 'Broadlines' and 'Sidelines'. As an additional interest feature, we are attaching copies of the latest editions published, with this newsletter to all members who receive their 'Back On Track' electronically. If you currently receive your newsletter by post, but would like an electronic copy of the HRA newsletters, just drop a contact email address that you can access, and we will send copy to you.

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