



## Memo

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**Date:** Friday, October 14, 2005  
**From:** Mr Robin D Gordon  
**To:** Mr Nigel Whitburn (Action with Communities in Rural Kent) NW  
**To:** Mr Martin Bacon (Ashfords Future) MB  
**To:** Ms Nina Headde (Community Rail Project) NH  
**To:** Mr Phil Cottrel (DFT) PC  
**To:** Mr Jeff Sims (Edwards Harvey PR) JS  
**To:** Mr John White (Hastings Diesels Ltd) J  
**To:** Mr Nick Gallop (Intermodality LLP) NG  
**To:** Mr Stephen Hagues (LAA) SH  
**To:** Mr Chris E Albrow (Lydd Mayor) CA  
**To:** Ms Maria Gonzalez (S E Trains) MG  
**To:** Mr Matt Ball (Southern) MB  
**To:** Mr Roger Lanham (Southern) RL  
**To:** Mr Jeremy Cooper (Stage Coach East Kent) JC  
**To:** Mr Vince Lucas (Southern) VL

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**Subject:** Record of the inaugural meeting of the Lydd Airport Railway Action Group (LARA).

**In attendance:**

Mr Robin D Gordon (LAA)  
Ms Nina Headde (Community Rail Project)  
Mr Chris E Albrow (Mayor of Lydd)  
Mr Roger Lanham (Southern)  
Ms Lisa Thompson (South Eastern)  
Mr Trevor Skelton (Action in communities in rural Kent)  
Ms Rebecca Stott (Ashford Borough Council)  
Ms Bernice O'Reilly (Government office of the South East)

- Robin Gordon opened the meeting with a presentation entitled "The market, the airport, and the rail rationale".
- The meeting watched a recently recorded interview with the Director of Marketing of FlyBe, describing the carriers growth model.
- The point was made to show the people sized scale of the aircraft that we plan to operate from Lydd. That they are small regional aircraft.
- It was proposed and agreed that at the next meeting of the LARA consultation a train be run on the line section Lydd to Appledore. The airport operating company would supply catering, organize invitations Etc.
- Discussion was made on the need for a physical upgrade of the line to enable passenger service. Opinions varied but it was felt that survey work would need to be undertaken.

- Comment was made that Network Rail would be able to undertake the feasibility work; that co funding was needed and would be welcomed.
- Comment was made on the issues surrounding the numerous road crossings of the line and the need for security fencing, level crossings Etc.
- Comment was made on signaling on the line. That, in essence, signals would only be required at each end of the section. That if, in the future, passing places (for which it is understood provision exists) where needed then this would be two sections with three/four sets of signals required.
- A discussion took place on the location of a station to serve the airport and local community needs. It was felt that consideration should be given to revitalizing Lydd station.
- Comment was made that the rolling stock would have to be diesel, that it would need provision to be driven from either end, that it would, probably, be two carriages.
- A discussion took place on the issue of a separate train operating company. It was strongly felt that this was not the way forward, That the service would be provided by one of the existing local operators.
- Comment was made on the need for alternative paths to work. That cycle path provision should be high on the agenda, that cycle sheds must be available.
- Comment was made on the opportunity to improve Appledore station.
- A discussion took place on train paths. That Ashford-Appledore was twin track. That fast services Brighton-Ashford sought to close, reduce stations on that route.
- Comment was made on the LAA employment policy and RG confirmed that the company had a shop local, employ local policy.
- Comment was made on the need to provide improved cycle access to the airport from Lydd and perhaps further.
- It was agreed that the record of the meeting be forwarded to all members of the LARA for approval comment prior to posting on the LARA web site.
- It was agreed that a press release, based on this record be forwarded to the members of the LARA for comment and or approval prior to release on Monday afternoon.
- RG mentioned that his understanding was that Network Rail had legal ownership of the line.
- RG agreed to make individual presentations to Network Rail, Southern and South Eastern as required.

The next meeting of the LARA was set for the 21<sup>st</sup> of March at 1500 at Lydd Airport, Appledore and Lydd railway station.