

Friends of Parson Street Railway Station



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Friends of Parson Street Railway Station (FoPSRS) is a new group that formed in January 2017 to lobby for improvements to facilities and services at Parson Street station.

This Bristol suburban station has seen a dramatic increase in usage from under 4,000 journeys in 2002/03 to 126,000 in 2015/16 but passenger facilities are spartan. The station has great potential as it is only 15 minutes walk from Ashton Gate stadium where stadium capacity has increased to 27,000 for football and rugby matches.

Currently Parson Street station is only served by local stopping trains between Bristol Parkway and Weston-super-Mare and some of the Cardiff to Taunton services. Passengers of other services from the Midlands, London or the South West have to change at Weston-super-Mare or Bristol Temple Meads.

The FoPSRS group would like GWR to fill timetable gaps, improve evening and weekend services and consider longer trains to serve matchday crowds.

The group have concerns about

- poor condition of stairs to the station
- lack of disabled access
- graffiti & poor levels of cleaning/maintenance
- limited shelter capacity on platforms
- lack of real-time train information.

The wooden steps from road overbridge provide the only access to the station but many are in poor condition. At the inaugural January meeting of the group, John Lanchester of GWR indicated that repairs would be carried out to the steps and that yellow lines will be painted on the platforms. As requested by FoPSRS, GWR will include tactile slabs along the length of the platforms (for the benefit of blind and disabled passengers) in its plan of improvements for the station.

Karin Smyth MP (Bristol South) and FOSBR support the campaign for better facilities and additional stops at Parson Street. Bristol City Council has said it would support expansion of CCTV at the station, should funding become available.

The FoPSRS group will be working on a Station Plan at their March meeting. Please contact them via their Facebook group or Twitter account if you would like to get involved:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1220052218062514/>

<https://twitter.com/FoPSRS>