

**FOSBR Public Meeting****Saturday 12 July 6 pm****Andrew Griffiths, Regional Manager, Central (Severn & Solent), First Great Western**

Andrew will include these topics in his talk:

- lessons from improving the rail service on the Cornish branch line
- the relevance for the Portishead passenger line
- aspirations for Bristol network
- current law & regulations on heavy and light rail running Bristol's tracks
- areas that he feels FOSBR can help with e.g. capacity issues.
- ticket sales – monthly season tickets, school student season tickets, Zone 1 & 2 sales
- prospect for house building and re-opening of local stations.

To get to meeting take the 17.15 train ex Avonmouth to Temple Meads Station. Walk down Approach Rd to metal rail on right to Gt Western Staff Club, then down steps to the lobby. Return on 20.34 train.

### FOSBR Half Hour Train Campaign

In 2006 FOSBR launched a Half Hour Train Campaign. In February 2007, Bristol City Council's ruling party, the Lib Dems, responded to public pressure and voted sufficient money to run an additional train between Bristol Temple Meads and Avonmouth on a 40 minute frequency for 3 years. The May 2008 timetable does not provide this frequency for commuters who are offered trains from BTM at 18.04, 19.33, 20.34 and 22.15 and .....

*“one third of the trains between weekday rush hours are not timetabled to stop at Lawrence Hill. I can't believe this, especially as the posters on the branch line platforms promised more trains for Stapleton Road and Lawrence Hill. I've already written to my local councillor. So the Runaway Train song (our version) is still valid, unfortunately,” writes Nicky Johns.*

These weaknesses are the usual mess resulting from private / public partnerships and not the fault of BCC. In fact FOSBR urged BCC to accept what was on offer in March 2008 as it seemed that we were in danger of losing what the council had agreed on.

### May 2008 timetable launched twice at Clifton Down Station

'Singers, politicians and trade unionists met at Clifton Down Station to launch the May 2008 timetable on Monday 19 May. Transport campaigner, Cat Hobbs, Public Transport Campaigner for the Campaign for Better Transport and lead player in the Half Hour Train Campaign, was the keynote speaker. She pointed out that the increased service is a victory for people power – see Cat's blog on <http://www.bettertransport.org.uk>. Other speakers included Stephen Williams MP for Bristol West, Paul Smith and Charlotte Leslie, prospective parliamentary candidates, Cllr Barbara Lewis and Bernard Kennedy, Branch Secretary for ASLEF. The Master of Ceremonies was FOSBR chairman Bernard Lane.

The speakers on Sunday 1 June included Cllr Bradshaw, Stephen Williams MP and Keith Walton from the Severnside Community Rail Partnership. First Great Western representatives were Andrew Griffiths, Regional Manager, and Mike Carroll. Mr Carroll featured in Bristol Evening Post's Insight feature "The £10m gravy train" (5 February 1998). Mr Carroll made £1.33m out of privatisation.

The campaigning aspect of the improved service was referred to by Cllr Bradshaw, who pointed out that BCC we will continue to be ambitious, by Stephen Williams who congratulated the FOSBR campaign team and by Bernard Lane.

FOSBR commuter writes - "The Severn Beach line is on the point of going critical. The preparations have taken more than a year, the operator has warmed up the line slowly by not introducing the new improved service all at once and Network Rail, not wanting to be accused of running an enthusiasts vintage, has been replacing most of the clickety clicks with professional welded track and reliable new points.

Stapleton Roads new right on garden centre (on a three year lease with Network Rail) is taking shape with ethical wood decking with the support of Easton's residents and the sweat of Temple Meads station master. Montpelier has a lovely pick elephant to greet people wanting to spend time in this bohemian socially interactive corner of Bristol and .....

The public transport literate peoples from Poland and Spain will be able to attend mass and travel to work in Avonmouth when their factory moves...maybe the road addicted natives of Bristol will start to take notice and get to know their city again - the new Severn S-Bahn, Cercanias, Overgroud Beach line."

Passengers count. Passenger weekday trips November 1994 – 2006 on Severn Beach Line peaked at 3771 a day in 2006. Counts for June 07 were similar to Nov 06.

FOSBR website needs bite sized samples of your ideas and your energy. Rush contributions to webmaster petergould18@aol.com

FOSBR timetable distributor Lionel White (0117 944 5687) delivered summer timetables B and E to public libraries in Yatton and Nailsea in the week before the start of the May 2008 timetable but FGW was unable to get the pocket timetables out on time.

Bristol Rambler, Peter Gould, has successfully created a programme of guided walks from rail stations in partnership with the Severnside Community Rail Partnership. There is no charge for taking part. Note that four people, boarding and returning to the same station, can travel for the price of two.

Bristol City Council meeting on Tuesday 10 June – FOSBR presentation on the new train service and ambitions for the future.

Address: FOSBR, c/o 17 Belmont Road, Bristol BS6 5AW

Tel: 0117 942 8637

E-mail: [severnbeach@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:severnbeach@hotmail.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.fosbr.org.uk>