



Reporting back on meetings of outside bodies

GTR Stakeholder Forum – 9 November 2018

Councillor Catlin

GTR held a Stakeholder forum at Jury's Inn, Brighton on November 9th to present their plans for a substitute services during the nine day suspension of service February 16-24 2019.

During this period there will be no Brighton- Main Line service to London nor from Lewes-London. East Coastway services will run.

Brighton - London services will run via Littlehampton and there will be replacement buses to Three Bridges as well as, at time of writing, East Grinstead and Uckfield. Southern tickets will also be valid on Southeastern trains from Hastings particularly for passengers from Glynde, Berwick, Hampden Park and Eastbourne.

The work is being done now because in the previous 5-year period GTR were not given enough money from Central Government to do any work on the Brighton Main Line.

The Railway believes that it is more expedient to have a nine-day closure at a time when travel is 10% lighter due to the half term holiday, than the 84 weekends it would take if the work were to be confined to the more traditional work pattern.

On 15 November Southern announced a surprise further period of closure of the lines east of Polegate, the Seaford branch, and in all directions from Lewes including Cooksbridge and Polegate for a signalling engineering occupation. During this period, 37-year-old signalling at Haywards Heath will be swept away and signal boxes at Lewes and other locations will be closed and decommissioned.

The resignalling should enable a more intensive service to be provided on the section south of Balcombe, where the four track main line becomes only double track, and a more intensive service on the Seaford branch.

This is of necessity a brief report but I am happy to take Members' questions.