

Year End Update – 21st December 2018

Hopefully you will have noticed the positive changes that have occurred at Appledore Station during recent months, which is the result of the efforts of the Friends of Appledore Station in collaboration with Network Rail, (NR), Govia Thameslink Railway Limited, (GTR - Southern), Sussex Community Rail Partnership, (SCRIP), South East Water, (SEW) and Ashford Borough Council, (ABC)

⇒ **Track Side Clearance**

- ⇒ Almost all of the abandoned rails, sleepers and sacks of aggregate have been removed from the immediate area around the station
- ⇒ In addition to seeking to have the final items removed, we have also requested that the trackside vegetation around the platform areas be addressed

⇒ **Platforms**

- ⇒ We are planning to purchase and establish planters on both platforms during Q1'19 and to populate them with appropriate seasonal bulbs and plants
- ⇒ SEW have agreed that a secure standpipe will be installed to provide a ready supply of water. There has been a slight delay in the installation which had been expected to be completed by the end of October 2018. We now have a commitment that the work will be done during the first week of January 2019
- ⇒ We will be able to use a hosepipe connection for watering the planters on the Appledore to Ashford platform and will be rigging up a portable water butt in order that we can transport water across to the planters on the Appledore to Hasting platform

⇒ **Station Car Park**

- ⇒ FoAS have spent a couple of weekends clearing the whole car park area of vegetation and rubbish with a view to improving the appearance. Sadly rubbish continues to be discarded rather than deposited in the refuse bin provided. We can but hope that the inconsiderate culprits will get the message over time
- ⇒ It is still uncertain exactly when in the New Year Indigo will commence charging for parking in the marked bays or what the charge will be. We have asked if there could be a scheme whereby regular commuters and occasional passengers might recover their parking costs but this has been declined
- ⇒ Indigo are already issuing Penalty Charge Notices for vehicles parked in the dedicated Disabled Parking Bay and the two Hatched Areas, as well as outside the marked zone
- ⇒ Parking is still a key issue, which may become slightly less so if local residents who use the spaces reserved for commuters and passengers discontinue parking there, once parking charges are introduced
- ⇒ We will continue to investigate options for expanding car parking facilities as we know that this would also facilitate an increase in the use of Appledore station
- ⇒ GTR – Southern have investigated the matter of lighting of the car park and have upgraded the lights to provide a balance between the security of commuters and passengers using the area after dark and any potential adverse impact on the neighbouring properties

⇒ **Dedicated Secure Area for FoAS**

- ⇒ The facilities provided will begin to be used, now that the area has been cleared of the overgrown vegetation and a new, secure access gate installed. There is still some renovation that needs to be addressed and this will be undertaken by volunteers during Q1'19

⇒ **Main Station Building**

A secondary secure area has been provided within the main station building. There is a great deal of abandoned rubbish that needs to be removed before we can determine how best to utilise this facility

We have approached NR to establish their intentions with regard to the main building and the outbuildings, to see if there is an opportunity for FoAS to gain a secure and ongoing access, with a view to having the building renovated and a usage established that is beneficial to the village

As an interim, we are in discussion with GTR with regard to replacement panelling used on the windows and doors, which could include village scenes, possibly created by the Appledore Art Club. GTR – Southern have expressed a willingness to undertake aspects of the work during Q1'19

⇒ **Station Toilets**

- ⇒ We are in the process of clearing the vegetation and rubbish from the old toilet facilities on the Appledore to Ashford platform, which have been out of use, gated and padlocked for a number of years. At this stage the future use of these outbuildings is uncertain

⇒ **FoAS Notice Board**

- ⇒ The agreed installation of a second Notice Board, for use by FoAS, to be installed on the Appledore to Hastings platform, will be progressed during Q1'19
- ⇒ The existing Notice Board will continue to be populated with items provided by FoAS and will include postings regarding specific village activities

⇒ **Soldier Silhouettes – Battles Over**

- ⇒ We have been asked that the three silhouettes, installed on the Appledore to Ashford platform wall, be left in situ for the foreseeable future

⇒ **Ideas & Suggestions**

- ⇒ FoAS would like to receive ideas and suggestions for what we can do to further our aims of improving the image of Appledore Station and increasing the usage of the Marshlink Line