

# **WEST SUSSEX RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION**

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**NEWSLETTER No 4 : DECEMBER 2021**

## **New timetable from 4 January, 2022**

The Winter timetable will be introduced fully on Tuesday 4 January 2022. Until then there have been some temporary service reductions, few of which have affected our services except for the diversion of Victoria services and from London Bridge.

The last phase will be introduced as schools and businesses start to return and from 4 January, more Southern and Thameslink will run on weekdays, and Gatwick Express services will return seven days per week.

The Arun Valley and West Coastway services from 4 January are in the attached pdf file.

## **Fares increase**

The Government has confirmed that regulated rail fares will rise by 3.8% in line with inflation in July 2020. Because of the pandemic the increase will be from 3 April rather than January. There will be a similar increase in 2023. Regulated fares are seasons, anytime returns and singles, and what used to be called Savers – now off-peak returns valid for one month. Train operators are free to vary the prices of other tickets including off-peak singles and day returns, and advance tickets.

## **Crawley station redevelopment**

The first image of a major facelift for Crawley station has been released and building work is underway on the first phase of a project that will give visitors to the town a much brighter welcome. The ticket office is about to undergo a transformation with the ticket gates moved and the area decluttered, new glazing installed to brighten up the concourse, along with work to improve the toilets and a longer London-bound platform canopy to keep the rain off. A temporary station building has come into use to serve Thameslink and Southern passengers while the project's first phase is underway. Comments from Network Rail and Southern on the project are:

Network Rail's route director for Sussex, Katie Frost, said: "This is a fantastic project that will give passengers a much better experience when they catch a train or arrive in Crawley. It's fair to say that the station was designed and built in a time when fewer passengers were using the railway and it's great to start to bring the station up to modern standards. Once the major work to the interior of the station starts in 2022 we'll be moving station facilities to a temporary building in the car park, so I'd like to thank passengers in advance for the change to their usual journeys."

Southern's Customer Services Director Chris Fowler said: "We welcome this comprehensive refurbishment. It will create a better experience all round for our customers, with more space, refurbished toilets and better cycle parking. We thank customers for their patience while the work is under way, and we're very grateful to our tenant, Metro Cars, for their flexibility."

Trevor Tupper

Secretary/Treasurer