

15th May 2003

Trains Return to Chandler's Ford

Train services will return to Chandler's Ford in Hampshire later this month 34 years after the last passengers used the station. A new rail link and station will begin operation later this month thanks to a partnership between Hampshire County Council, Strategic Rail Authority (SRA), South West Trains and Network Rail.

SWT's new Romsey to Totton service will call at Chandler's Ford from the start of the summer timetable this weekend. Work is progressing on the new station and is scheduled to be completed in September.

The development of the station will include:

- A new station building with staffed ticket office (from Autumn 2003)
- A new platform
- 50 space car park
- Parking for 40 bicycles
- Footbridge to the station building
- New toilets with disability access
- Real time passenger information
- CCTV covering the entire site

Hampshire County Council has funded the £2 million for the station build and the SRA has provided £3.34 million over three years through its Rail Passenger Partnership scheme to cover the costs of running the station and the new train service.

The last service to call at Chandler's Ford railway station was the 21.03 from Portsmouth to Romsey on 3 May 1969.

Nick Newton, Managing Director, Operations at the Strategic Rail Authority said:

"I am delighted that, through the SRA's Rail Passenger Partnership scheme we are able to fund this exciting new service and station and attract more people to rail. The project highlights the benefit of the partnership approach for delivering improvements to local rail services."

Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Environment, Councillor Keith Estlin, said:

"The re-opening of Chandler's Ford railway station is excellent news, and I'm pleased that the County Council has been able to work in partnership with the Strategic Rail Authority and South West Trains to make this service a reality."

"It will give local people a viable alternative to the car, something that the County Council is always keen to encourage".

Andrew Haines, South West Trains' Managing Director, said:

"In the current climate which is characterised by pessimism about investment in the rail industry it is great to be at the forefront of a scheme which is bringing a new station to Chandler's Ford and forging a new rail link for the community to the rest of the network".

Notes to Editors

- 1. A photocall with representatives of all partners will be held at the station on Monday 19 May at 9am. An official opening ceremony will take place later in the year.**
2. The daily Romsey to Totton service will be introduced with South West Trains' summer timetable on May 18. It will run hourly and call at Romsey, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Southampton Airport (Parkway), Swaythling, St Denys, Southampton Central, Millbrook, Redbridge and Totton.
3. The Rail Passenger Partnership (RPP) scheme is designed to support those schemes which, though deemed not commercially viable, aim to promote transport integration and encourage modal shift from road to rail. Across the network, around £81 million worth of RPP funding has been approved, covering 81 schemes.

For further details contact the Department for Transport Rail Press desk:
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