

Rye Station

Proposal for the office at Rye Station, which has been used by Southeast Communities Rail Partnership for many years, to be used by the local community.

This office is to the side of the booking hall at Rye Station. It has a toilet and hot drink making facilities. It is a reasonable size and although it could do with a coat of paint, it is in reasonable condition. SCRP and Southern Rail/GTR are keen for it to be used for community use.

The office is only accessible during the Ticket Office/Booking Hall opening hours. At the moment these are :

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday: 05.40am to 19.05pm

Thursday 05.40am to 17.10pm

Sunday 08.10 to 15.45pm.

Sometimes the ticket office and booking hall close at short notice because of staff shortages and sickness.

Although the hours can sometimes restrict the use of the office, it is actually beneficial for whatever activity is happening in the office for the Station to be open with the numbers of people that come through.

Recently Southern/GTR had a consultation for a change in opening hours at Rye Station which would include shorter days and no opening on Sundays. Many people responded, including myself as Line Officer for Marshlink Community Rail, that this was a real shame for a town that relies on visitors and tourism. We do not yet know the outcome of these consultations.

Now, more than ever is a good time to establish community use of this office space. If there were changes to the use of the Booking Hall in the future, a much-appreciated community space would be an important feature to maintain at the station, invaluable to the local community and

visitors, and part of an important gateway to the town. Southern Rail/GTR are behind this, they want to support community involvement at Stations.

One way for this to happen is through a Friends of Rye Station group. We have started setting one up informally with volunteer gardeners and other volunteers, but if this had a legal framework and constitution it could apply for funding and be in place to help community groups use the space.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss this.

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