

## HARBOROUGH RAIL USERS

### CONSTITUTION

1. The organisation shall be called Harborough Rail Users (HRU).
2. This constitution shall be the only set of governing rules of HRU.
3. The purpose and sole aim of HRU shall be to represent the best interests of all rail users at Market Harborough station (the Station). This covers both the train service provided by the Train Operating Company (TOC) and the facilities at the Station provided by the TOC, Network Rail or any other organisation.
4. HRU shall seek to establish and maintain links with other recognised national and regional transport user pressure groups and representative bodies (specifically TravelWatch East Midlands and Railfuture, plus Transport Focus) as the Committee shall from time to time see fit. Any HRU representative attending an event held by such bodies on HRU's behalf shall be obliged to report to the Committee on the business of the event.
5. HRU shall at all times act in a constructive and responsible manner in dealing with the TOC or any other organisation.
6. HRU shall be obliged to hold a general meeting (AGM) once every twelve months. Notice of the AGM shall be advertised one calendar month before the date on which it is held. The principal business of the AGM shall be to elect the officers of HRU. This meeting shall be open to all users of the Station. The quorum for holding such a meeting shall be six attendees.
7. The officers shall be one Chair, one Secretary, one Treasurer and four other Committee members. These officers shall form the Committee.
8. HRU is strictly independent. Officers or other Committee members must declare any interests that may conflict with those of HRU.
9. The Committee shall have the right to co-opt other members. The decision as to whether to co-opt other such members shall be at the discretion of the Chair. Co-opted members of the Committee may serve until the next Annual General Meeting.
10. All elections shall be by simple majority vote (either show of hands or secret ballot, at the discretion of the Chair). The Chair of the AGM or Committee meeting shall not vote. If there is no simple majority the Chair shall have a vote to decide the outcome.
11. The Committee shall be required to meet formally at least twice a year between AGMs. The quorum for holding such meetings shall be four attendees. A Committee meeting shall be chaired by the Chair or such other Committee member as the meeting shall decide with the agreement of the Chair. In the absence of the Chair from any meeting, any other Committee member may chair that meeting with the agreement of those present.
12. The Committee shall be required to meet the Train Operating Company (TOC) formally at least once a year between AGMs. HRU must make available a summary of the discussion at this or any other meeting with the TOC to other users at the Station.

## HARBOROUGH RAIL USERS

### CONSTITUTION

13. Formal communication by HRU with the TOC, Network Rail or any other rail industry organisation or stakeholder such as the Department for Transport, local authorities or elected representatives shall be conducted solely through or by agreement with the Chair.
14. HRU shall not charge a membership fee but shall from time to time be entitled to raise funds for the purpose of supporting action and campaigns and meeting any other incidental costs. These funds shall be held and accounted for by the Treasurer, by means of a specific bank account in the name of HRU. The Chair and Treasurer shall be the authorised signatories of the HRU bank account and shall be authorised to conduct HRU business by means of internet banking. The Treasurer shall have authority to manage the internet banking account online as primary user, and to delegate this access to other, secondary, users by agreement with the Committee. The Committee shall account for the collection and expenditure of any such funds at the AGM.
15. HRU shall at all times maintain a noticeboard at the Station to make information available to other users and to advertise the details of meetings. This noticeboard must display a means of contacting HRU.
16. HRU shall at all times maintain a public website, giving news of its activities and a means of contacting HRU.
17. The Chair shall be solely responsible for dealing with media (press, radio and television, HRU website). No other member of the Committee or of HRU shall be entitled to make any statements on behalf of HRU without the prior approval of the Chair. The Chair may from time to time delegate such responsibility to other members of the Committee should they see fit.
18. No amendment may be made to this constitution except at the AGM or at another general meeting of HRU. The holding of such a meeting must be advertised at least one calendar month before the date on which it is to take place.
19. In the event of HRU successfully concluding all matters for which it was formed, or in the event of it being agreed that it has become ineffectual, the Committee may decide that it should be wound up. In this situation, one month's notice must be given on the Station noticeboard and in the local press. Any funds or assets remaining after winding-up costs should be disposed of by offer to a local community group or local charity.

<p>This version approved by HRU Committee via a virtual general meeting.</p>	<p>12/12/2020</p>
<p>It will be presented for approval at the next AGM, falling due in November 2021. It supersedes all previous versions.</p>	