

On the

PRESS RELEASE FROM CAMBRIDGE HEATH AND LONDON FIELDS RAIL USER GROUP

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Rail takes off at Cinderella stations

Many of the people walking past London Fields and Cambridge Heath stations do not realise there are now trains all day.

“There’s no point in going in there,” said one friendly passer-by near Cambridge Heath. “No trains stop there.”

At London Fields, a worker from one of firms based in the arches under the railway viaduct said: “I’ve never seen more than one or two passengers going in there.”

He could hardly believe it when he was told about 400 people used the station every week day.

In fact, 65 trains stop at the two stations each day and despite there being virtually no publicity from train operator WAGN, passenger numbers are growing fast – much faster than the national trend.

More than 800 people were counted in (and out) of the two stations in a day last week when rail campaigners handed out new timetables.

At Cambridge Heath, passenger numbers have increased by 57% in a year, thanks to WAGN improving the peak service and introducing 22 off-peak trains. The national increase in rail passengers last year was about 7%.

Over three years, the passenger totals at the two stations have more than doubled from 388 to 836. At London Fields the number of people using the station to get to Liverpool Street in the morning has increased by nearly 300%.

“We think that if there was some good publicity and marketing, lots more people would use the trains,” said Ray King of the Cambridge Heath and London Fields Rail User Group.

“We’re hoping soon to clock up 1,000 passengers in a day.”

He added: “If WAGN introduced late evening and weekend trains, the number of rail users would soar.

“After all it takes only a few minutes to get to Liverpool Street by train while the bus can take ages.

“In the other direction, it is only 20 minutes to Enfield, which is a good shopping centre.”

But one disgruntled passenger said: “I can’t see why there are no trains at the weekend, particularly as they are in a built-up area with congested roads and no Tube links. It’s time WAGN woke up to what people want.”

Stacey Parker of Frampton Park Estate said: “I use London Fields station all the time to go to college, to go shopping, to visit my boyfriend. I wish there were some weekend trains. It would be great then.”

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