I had encouraging meetings this afternoon with Govia and Network Rail.  I was asked to pass on, once again, their sincere apologies for the difficulties that have faced my constituents over recent months. I found no complacency amongst the senior staff and a determination to improve services as quickly as they can for passengers.

Govia reported that PPM from 26 August to 8 September was 81.8%. That is not back to pre-May levels, but is a vast improvement on recent weeks.

The main news is that the evening stops on the Cambridge flyers have now been agreed with Network Rail and DfT.  The services will start in December.

The 06:57 Cambridge to London King’s Cross and 17:51 London King’s Cross to Cambridge have been announced on their website as starting on 24 September.

The 15.51from King’s Cross is under active consideration for December.

The weekend timetables should improve as more drivers have been trained and are starting to join the rosters.

Sadly there is little to be done about the regular weekend engineering works at Hitchin.  These are necessary and unavoidable.

Network Rail said that the sustained hot weather contributed to many of the infrastructure problems over the summer, such as overhead lines failing. There is a particular problem with the overhead lines at Alexandra Palace which is being investigated by a special group of their most experienced engineers.

The Hertford line was subject to disruption because of shrinkage on the clay banks during the hot weather.  Drivers were reporting distortions on the line, which had to be investigated.

The Moorgate line will be the first in the country to be upgraded to digital signalling in the next planning period. The King’s Cross signal box will be upgraded in 2020.

I am continuing to receive regular updates from both Govia and Network Rail. I have asked both organisations to improve their real-time information to passengers.