

Re. SFCC Interactive Webcam and Railway Enthusiasts

NB. 10th August 2009 - Webcam Pan Angle restrictions now apply. Item 1. below recinded.

It will no longer be possible for anyone to zoom-in on Starcross Railway Station.

Webcam overall view has been retained, but zooming in on the left and right may not be what it was.

It has been appreciated, almost from day one, that railway enthusiasts use our webcam facility to view their passion, from time to time.

Waiting to receive control when an enthusiast is busy can be frustrating. Several members have notified that they are not too happy with the situation.

SFCC General Committee have discussed the situation twice now and have decided to leave things as they are at present, but to monitor usage thus ensuring things don't get any more difficult for our members.

There are several reasons why the Committee feel no changes should be made at present, and are listed as follows;

1. No restriction to the pan angle of the camera because the current view from North to South is considered best. To just have a view of the River would mean the camera was only a boat / river conditions checking facility.
2. To restrict the camera by means of a password sounds straight forward enough, but the current log on procedure is as easy as it comes and has proven reliable over time. It was also considered that members might forget a password and this would then inconvenience them in as much as a new one would be needed. Any subsequent e-mail traffic would need administering promptly.
3. By having a webcam facility available to all on the internet our website gets links on to other websites. This apparent helps us with regards to online searches (google etc), making our website more visible to members or potential new members.
4. The webcam webpage offers limited advertising, so we want as many people to view these adverts as is possible. Restricting use would likely mean far less viewings which may not be appreciated by advertisers.
5. Lastly, it was felt that the webcam is such a fantastic facility, with it's unequalled view of the Exe Estuary, and that to keep it just for ourselves would be selfish.

Any comments from members regarding webcam usage are welcome.

Please e-mail to bruneltower@aol.com or write to the club.

Russ.

SFCC Publicity / Website Co-ordinator