

DEROGATION FOR 08.50 COLNE TO BLACKPOOL SOUTH (MONDAY TO FRIDAY ONLY) SERVICE, TO EXCEED THE MAXIMUM JOURNEY TIME TO BETTER SUIT STUDENTS

The brand new Burnley College campus is situated very close to Burnley Central station on the East Lancashire Line and many students use, or could use, the train to get to and from the college.

Northern Rail's Community Ambassadors working with Lancashire County Council's Community Rail Development Officers and Blackpool North's Conductor Team Managers, visited the college during enrolment week and again for the Fresher's Fair and the main concern of prospective users from the Colne and Nelson direction was that the 08.50 train from Colne didn't allow them to get to college in time for a 09.00 start.

The East Lancashire Line is officially designated under the Government's Community Rail Strategy and this designation allows Community Rail Partnership's to work with the train operators and other industry partners to simplify the processes of change. It also allows CRPs to try innovative and experimental ideas that might not normally be introduced, but may benefit the community that the line serves. Working with Northern Rail's Franchise Compliance Manager they submitted an application for a derogation '*to extend the maximum journey time*' of the 08.50 service from Colne to Blackpool South to the Department for Transport.

The application requested that the 08.50 service (Monday to Friday) from Colne to Blackpool South be given derogation to start from Colne at 08.40 and call at Nelson and Brierfield arriving at Burnley Central at 08.53 with the advertised departure from Burnley Central and stations west thereof being as advertised.

The Department gave due consideration to the application and on 27th September issued a letter confirming that the derogation had been agreed. The DfT's letter states that the derogation; will run from 02.01 on Sunday 11th December 2011 to 23.59 on Saturday 8th December 2012.

The CRP is delighted with this result and will make all efforts to publicise the change to students and to alert other regular users regarding the earlier departure time from Colne, Nelson and Brierfield.