

ROSE GROVE REVIVED

Friday 25th September 2015

An event has been held to mark the completion of improvements to Burnley's Rose Grove railway station.

Rose Grove's status has grown following the start of services on the newly restored Todmorden Curve earlier this year, which re-established direct train services between Burnley and Manchester.

A £150,000 programme of improvements has been carried out to make Rose Grove more comfortable, convenient, and secure for the many more people expected to use the station, with passenger numbers predicted to double to nearly 100,000 over the next decade.

The revamp included a new waiting shelter and seating, a Customer Information Screen (CIS) showing 'real-time' train times, a ticket vending machine (TVM), and improved signage and information.

Security has also been boosted with CCTV cameras, a passenger-operated help point, and the removal of a number of large trees on the platform to create a more open environment.

The project, part of the £250M Growth Deal secured from Government by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), was completed before direct services to Manchester began in May thanks to upfront funding from Lancashire County Council.

Community Rail Lancashire has also worked with Padiham Green CE Primary School and Lowerhouse Junior School to spruce up the station with £5,000 of new artwork. Designs featured on the platform fence, station signs, and at the entrance are based on a story about a stickleback called 'Small Fry'. Rose Grove locomotive shed used to draw water from the adjacent Leeds to Liverpool Canal and was famous for the number of sticklebacks that used to be found in the water tanks of the locomotives based there.

Councillor John Harbour, Burnley Council executive member for housing and environment, said: "Along with our partners we've greatly improved our transport links this year."

"The relaunch of the Todmorden Curve service, providing Burnley with a direct train to Manchester for the first time in over 40 years, is another milestone in our economic growth. The redevelopment of Rose Grove station is another fantastic improvement on the line and I'm delighted we could get the community involved through the schools to really make it their own."

County Councillor John Fillis, Lancashire County Council cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "These improvements at Rose Grove, and the restoration of the Todmorden Curve, are a sign of further good things to come for transport in East Lancashire."

"Better transport links lay the foundation to attract businesses, investment and create new jobs, and we're working closely with partners including Burnley Council and the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership to achieve this."

Richard Allan, Commercial Director for Northern Rail comments: "We listen to our customers and they tell us they want better station facilities and more ways to pay for their journey. This investment, and this additional TVM, provide just that. Along with the extra train services we've introduced since May, Rose Grove is now much improved."

Brian Haworth, community rail development officer, Community Rail Lancashire, said: "Community Rail Lancashire are pleased to have been involved in the revitalisation of Rose Grove Railway Station. Our long standing relationship with local schools has enabled us to secure their involvement through an innovative art scheme which helps to celebrate Rose Grove's past railway connections and link it to today's Rose Grove community."

The recent improvements are the first phase of the planned refurbishment of Rose Grove station. A second phase is expected to see the provision of an improved car park and small bus interchange.

Notes to editors:

Blackburn to Manchester rail service

This service operates every hour, 7 days a week from Blackburn to Manchester calling at the following stations in Lancashire: Accrington, Rose Grove, Burnley Manchester Rd. It also calls at Church & Oswaldtwistle on Sundays. Full details can be found on the Northern Rail website.

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership has secured £251.1 million from the Government's Local Growth Fund to support economic growth in the area through the Growth Deal.

The Lancashire Growth Deal aims to realise the growth potential of the whole of Lancashire, building on key local economic assets including the universities and colleges, the Enterprise Zone, the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal and high-value business clusters across the county.

Over the lifetime of the deal (2015 – 2021) the Growth Deal is expected to create up to 8,000 new jobs, 3,000 new homes and attract £280m of additional public and private investment to Lancashire.

