



## Leeds - Morecambe Community Rail Partnership

### PRESS RELEASE

#### New appointment heralds a bright new future

The Leeds-Lancaster-Morecambe Community Rail Partnership (CRP) - known as the Bentham Line - has just appointed its first staff member, a Community Rail Partnership Officer. Catherine Huddleston, a Lancaster & Morecambe College Business Alumni and a frequent rail user, starts work on the week commencing Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October but as she is part time her first day in the office is actually Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Messages may be left at Bentham Station on 01524 298940 or her mobile 07471 941038.

Gerald Townson, CRP chair, explains "Catherine's appointment is great news for the future of the Bentham Line and the next generation of Community Rail, especially as we are about to embark on the new Northern Rail franchise next spring. We are looking forward to her developing the community aspects of the whole line."

Catherine describes herself as a self-proclaimer "chatterbox" who enjoys striking up conversation with everyone. She says "Coming from the small town of Settle, I love the feel and benefits of a close community. I look forward to working with all the communities along the line to keep service provision and quality on track!"

This post has been made possible because of funding made available to Community Rail from Virgin East Coast as part of their new franchise deal. The CRP qualifies because its service links Leeds on the East Coast mainline to

Lancaster which is on the West Coast mainline and then the coast. As Rod Tickner, Communications Director at the CRP explains "although Catherine is based at Bentham where the CRP has its offices we cover the route from Heysham and Morecambe on the coast through the Lune and Aire Valleys and more urban Keighley and Shipley to Leeds, promoting the line and its many attractions for rail users."

The photograph shows Catherine being welcomed by Gerald Townson, CRP chair, with Rod Tickner immediately behind them and other Directors and members of the Executive Committee.

The website for the line is at <http://www.leedslancastermorecambecrp.co.uk/>

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