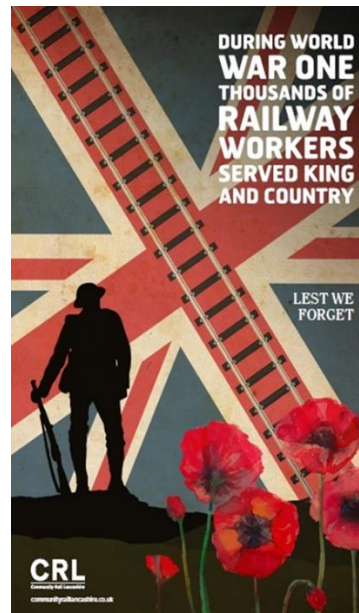




Central Area Community Rail Partnerships

Report to ComREG Meeting

12 December 2018



On behalf of:

High Peak & Hope Valley CRP

South East Manchester CRP

Crewe – Manchester CRP

Mid-Cheshire CRP

Clitheroe Line CRP

East Lancashire CRP

**Community Rail Lines in the
Central Area of Northern**



Line	Name	Chairman	Partnership Officer
	High Peak & Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership	George Wharmby	Andrew Walker
SEMCRP	South East Manchester and Crewe – Manchester Community Rail Partnerships	Peter Robinson	Steve Forde
	Mid-Cheshire Community Rail Partnership	John Oates	Sally Buttifant
	Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnership	Marjorie Birch	Brian Haworth
	East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership	Marjorie Birch	Brian Haworth

High Peak & Hope Valley CRP

Notes supplied by Andrew Walker



- The installation of TVM's is now complete at all stations on the Hope Valley Line and a Penalty Fare Policy commenced on 6th December. We hope to address some apprehension amongst passengers and the station friends groups by arranging some TVM Demonstration Sessions with help from Rebecca Stiles, our new Communities & Sustainability Manager when she starts in January. In particular there have been comments about not finding it easy to obtain a Promise To Pay voucher.
- An Engineering Feasibility Study on possible solutions to the significant access problems at Chinley station came through from Network Rail in mid-November. This document allowed Raj Chandarana to send off an Access For All funding application drafted in part by Chinley & Buxworth Transport Group. At very short notice a large number of Letters Of Support were forwarded to Raj by a wide range of individuals and organisations backing the bid.
- At Dore & Totley Station, the project to provide a canopy over the single platform has matured further through the Autumn and is now expected to be delivered in late January by Northern's contractor.
- Also affecting Dore & Totley Station is news on the Hope Valley Route Capacity Improvement Scheme. Network Rail are now bringing the engineering plan up to date in Control Period 5 which ends in April 2019. They expect to be moving it forward to awarding contracts in late 2019 after which a more detailed timetable of work will become available for completion in Control Period 6. They are now looking at December 2022 as the earliest date any additional train paths can be timetabled in. Just as significant as the extra capacity the scheme will provide is the anticipated improvement in train punctuality from the provision of the second track at Dore Junction near Sheffield on to the Hope Valley Line, compared to the current bi-directional single track which becomes a bottleneck as soon as any train misses its allocated time slot through the junction.
- Some station group projects from around our CRP which have been, or are being, completed about now include:
 - Provision of A Bench With A View at Chapel En Le Frith Station car park
 - Two large panoramic photographs for the platforms at Edale illustrating and naming the impressive array of hill-tops and scenic features you can see from the station
 - The first visible project at Hope Station, which has been the recent provision of two wooden planters by the new volunteer group
 - A very well researched WWI Armistice display at Grindleford Station in the Hope Valley with a biography of every fallen soldier from the village
 - A Christmas Event at Glossop Station with the grand switching on of the lights performed by Northern MD David Brown

- The successful installation of a high quality Real Time Information (RTI) Monitor in a public building in the centre of Hathersage. This is the first example in our CRP's area of a proposal first put to station groups in 2016 by Northern to provide RTI at a location away from a station.



- The CRP has completed a programme of refurbishing our noticeboards by fitting new perspex glazing sheets, and putting in new backing sheets for our posters and station information. Our next project is to work with Northern to install some community noticeboards for the friends group at Disley Station.
- And finally, our station groups from Buxton and Glossop did exceptionally well at the ACORP Awards in Glasgow gaining four top prizes and also having the great pleasure of seeing our much-loved colleague Neil Williams from Glossop recognised for his Outstanding Volunteer Contribution in 2018.

Major Issues:

- The ongoing shocking state of New Mills Newtown Station on the Buxton Line is causing considerable aggravation to passengers, New Mills Town Council, High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council. Our CRP have sent in a report to Liam Sumpter about the wide range of equipment and passenger facilities which are damaged/failed/life expired or represent a health and safety risk. A senior manager made a site visit in late-November and we hope this marks the start of a concerted effort to fix or replace all the faulty equipment around the station site – and can then lead to a deep clean and comprehensive repainting programme.
- Inevitably the strike action on Saturdays has to be mentioned. The Buxton and Glossop Lines have been getting a limited service but the Hope Valley stations have not had any service at all. Patience with the situation from passengers has now turned to annoyance. Edale is badly hit on strike days because the nearest bus services which would provide some form of public transport alternative are 5 miles away, making non-car owners effectively isolated within the village. Our Manchester – Hathersage Saturday Folk Trains have been cancelled and the venue in the village which acts as the focal point for the event is down on trade as a result.

South East Manchester CRP & Crewe – Manchester CRP	<i>Notes supplied by Steve Forde</i>
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The last few weeks have been all about art with several of this year's projects coming to completion at more or less the same time. The combined CRPs line art project was launched at Manchester Central on 13th November with support from High Peak & Hope Valley CRP, Women In Community Rail / Amazing Women, several station friends groups, plus Northern and TPE.

The Friends of Rose Hill launched their Community Art Mural on the 17th November. The artwork was created in local schools and several multi-generational workshops (see image).

Similarly, the Friends of Rose Hill have had a busy few weeks with their Platform 1 community art project unveiled on Saturday 8th November.





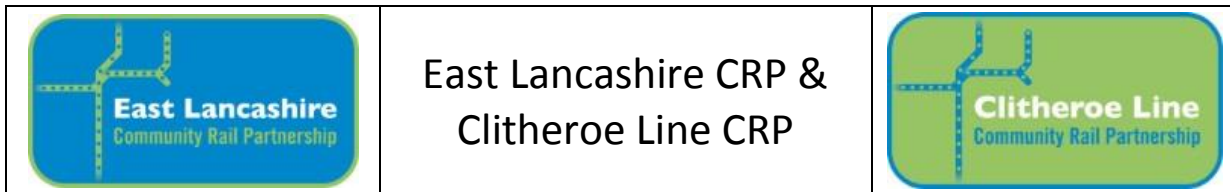
Friends of Reddish South held a very successful Armistice event which involved local children from the 1st/4th Reddish Beavers who are seen (left) presenting their posters to the Friends of Reddish South Station.

As well as the unveiling of the posters, the group wanted to have a memorial plaque, and it was suggested this should go outside the station by the gate. They invited Andrew Gwynne MP to unveil the plaque and Deputy Mayor Wendy Meikle to unveil the posters on the station.

In September the Friends of Romiley sponsored one of the baking classes at Romiley Young Farmers Show. The “Bake Me A Train” competition went down really well and served to increase awareness of the station friends group and their activities.

Finally, Steve Forde is happy to report that after years of campaigning by the Friends of Goostrey, work has finally started on preserving the station’s historic wooden ticket hall.





Notes supplied by Marjorie Birch

Future of Clitheroe and Nelson Interchanges

Lancashire County Council at their Cabinet meeting in December 2017 agreed to withdraw funding from the Interchanges that it managed. Our two lines each have an Interchange, one based at Clitheroe Station the other at Nelson. During the year a proposal was put forward which allowed interested parties to put submit a business case with the outcome resulting in the take over of the running of the Interchanges. Community Rail Lancashire is currently working on a business case for Clitheroe and an interested party is completing one for Nelson. These have to be submitted by 28th December 2018.

December Timetable

On the Colne to Preston line the present bus replacement service will cease and all services revert to trains. The Preston to Leeds service will become Preston to York with Church Fenton being the only stop beyond Leeds. There will also be a gradual introduction of electric trains along the Bolton corridor. With the reduction in the print run of the new timetables it is very difficult for our Friends of Stations groups to access sufficient printed timetables to place in the holders at the stations.

Penalty fares are also being introduced on the Colne to Preston line now that ticket machines have been installed at all the stations. Ticket machines are currently being installed on the Clitheroe line.

Station Improvements

The stations which met the criteria for monies from the DfT Access fund were

Colne, Brierfield, Cherry Tree, Burnley Rose Grove, Accrington and Huncoat on the East Lancashire line and Ramsgreave and Wilpshire on the Clitheroe line. It was agreed that these stations would benefit from development, improved access, improved safety and visibility on the stations.

Clitheroe Station

The new group of Northern apprentices will be focusing their attention on Clitheroe station. Working with the CRDO they will be looking at signage and improvements to station facilities over the next few months. The Friends of Clitheroe Station will hopefully be involved. A cantilever shelter has already been ordered for platform 1 at the station as space has been taken up in the current shelter with the installation of the ticket machine.

Performance

The performance, particularly on the Clitheroe Line has not been good with services terminating and restarting at Blackburn. This has been an ongoing problem and there appears to be no immediate solution. Between 1st October and 2nd December there were 64 cancellations with 40 trains terminated and restarted and Blackburn. These passengers then have an hours wait until the next train through to Clitheroe.

Remembering 100 years

Community Rail Lancashire played its part in the Remembrance celebrations by producing the poster on the front cover, which was placed in the notice panels at all our stations on the two lines.

Brian Haworth and Alistair Nicholson, an artist, worked with the children at Whalley CE Primary School to produce a piece of artwork. This focused on the link between the train and the old Queen Mary's Military Hospital just outside Whalley, which was accessed by a branch line from close to Whalley Station. This was part of a village project "Whalley Remembers" which involved many of the organisations and the Friends of Whalley Station who produced their own tribute.



Anti-Social Behaviour

Our BTP representative on the two Partnerships reported ongoing anti-social behavior at Accrington station. The eco shelter has been a target for repeated vandalism and has been used for 'out of sight'

drinking and now drug abuse and drug sales. There is no CCTV on the platforms and no lighting in the shelter, which has allowed this anti social behaviour to continue and develop to the detriment of fare paying passengers. It is hoped that by working with our partners that this shelter can be removed and replaced with a vandal proof shelter.

Burnley stations have been experiencing football related anti-social behaviour and details of this have been passed to BTPFootball for their consideration.

Hopefully the recent strikes will come to an end with the commitment from the Department of Transport and Transport for the North, in late November, for a second person to be retained on board our trains. In the run up to Christmas services on both our lines are usually extremely busy with passengers travelling into Manchester for the Christmas markets. Sadly this is not the case this year.

Mid-Cheshire Community Rail Partnership



Notes supplied by Sally Buttifant

- We are continuing to promote the Mid Cheshire Line through Marvellous Days Out – the artwork & Discover Amazing Women By Rail – keeping retail outlets stocked with posters and postcards, and delivering booklets to tourism attractions along the Line
- Looking at possible projects for next year to encourage people to take the train and spend their money locally
- Working with Marina, North Cheshire CRP officer to support her in developing that new CRP
- Talking to Cheshire Museums about connecting communities and museums via the rail line
- Keeping up to date with CRP finance and admin etc.
- Supporting Friends of the Mid Cheshire Line in their activities