

Community Rail Partnership Officer Report

For quarterly NSCRP Management Group meeting, 23 April 2020

Covering January – April 2020 period

By Claire Sandys, Community Rail Partnership Officer

East Midlands Railway

General

- Design of EMR station information boards has been completed by Sam Warden. Ready for printing. Installation at stations delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- NSCRP rebranding completed resulting in an update to colours and logo.
- New CRP Officer (15 hours) recruited – Emma McIntosh – to start 2 June
- Re. Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Transforming Cities Fund application for lifts at Longton and car park at Longport - we have not heard decision yet from DfT
- Derby Ram Trail, has been postponed to summer 2021 due to Covid-19
- Station Walks project booklet, named Rails to Trails, is being designed by Stoke-on-Trent City Council designers. Design has been slow due to designer being taken off for other jobs. Final route checks can only be completed post lockdown.
- Rails to Trails Engagement phase has started. Jayne Clamp, Active Travel Officer, has been seconded by the CRP for 7 hours a week for 6 months to plan and lead guided walks from the booklet. At the moment she is planning a July to Sept programme.
- NSCRP website being updated in liaison with Ian Hulme

Alsager

- Dementia Friendly Awareness session + walk held, Tues 28 Jan, attended by 13 people
- Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form Graphic Design students designing a "connectivity" poster put forward by Trevor Cotton – design probably to be completed elsewhere as College closed early and students need Adobe Illustrator on college PCs.

Kidsgrove

- Platform 2/3 store room ceiling repaired then damaged again due to roof damage. To be repaired again; assessment visit made 7 January. Mel Boler has chased this job, but it's still not been done. Volunteers would also like an electric socket to be reconnected but no response from Richard Bagguley.

- NR survey has revealed that footbridge work can continue once underground coal mine voids filled with cement. Due to take place in Spring, but then Covid-19 struck. Workforce then needs to be remobilised.
- Jon Honeysett's heritage display installed in the ticket office/waiting. Opening event held on Fri 31 Jan. Attended by 15 people.

Longport

- Still trying to establish who at Staffs CC can take responsibility for maintaining the wooded and fly tipped land adjacent to the Station. Tyres removed at a cost of £339 to the CRP. Nick Dawson (Connectivity Strategy Manager at Staffs County Council) to discuss with Clare Horton.
- The Waiting Room Gallery (run by station volunteers) has secured funding for a year to run community activities, thanks to an EMR Community Development Fund and a Cross Country Community Engagement Fund. Community activities on hold.

Longton

- Arches Art project – murals installed on 16 March. Celebration event with school had to be cancelled due to Covid-19
- New hayrack baskets to be installed at Platform level in the Summer
- Quote for new lighting has been requested for the underpasses, with SSE. Chris Norman from Stoke-on-Trent City Council has asked who would maintain the lighting.
- Possible heritage display in second underpass is in discussion with Heritage Action Zone Officer and Phil Rowley from Longton Community Partnership, who is to provide content.

Blythe Bridge

Community Action Day postponed from end March to Autumn 2020.

Uttoxeter

- 20 A3 pieces depicting local scenes submitted by members of Uttoxeter U3A Urban Sketchers art work are to be displayed on vinyl in the platform shelters.
- Uttoxeter Adopters to install a tiered house leek planter on Platform 2. Permission granted by EMR.
- Uttoxeter Adopters to install a solar powered bird bath fountain in the Heritage Garden once permission gained.

Tutbury and Hatton

2 new trough planters ready to be ordered. Adopter, Sue Norris, to seek advice from Firs Nursery re best drought tolerant and pollinator friendly species to use.

Peartree

- Donna and Claire met with Dave Savage from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to discuss plantings and bird and insect box activities, with a local school. £1200 total estimated cost. CRP will apply for EMR station improvement fund. NR Community licence requested by Claire. H & S documents to be requested from Dave Savage in order to apply for NR permission to install bird and bat boxes. Site access permit and WPP needed by EMR?
- Benches need replacing – EMR to supply?
- Tree maintenance by NR has been requested due to concerns about branches falling onto public areas and ivy growing up trees. Not sure if this has been done yet.

London Northwestern Railway (West Midlands Trains)

Stone

Currently without a train service as London Northwestern's Crewe – Stoke – Stafford route temporarily cancelled due to lack of passengers during Covid crisis.

Penkridge

- Chase Aqua Rural Enterprise (CARE) mural ready to print. Installation on hold until social distancing rules relaxed. Advice needed on how best to arrange for installation at the station.
- Penkridge Gardening Club members have agreed to plant and maintain some plants at 2 sites in the car park. Permission granted by WMT. To be installed in the autumn.
- Phoenix Art Group artwork printed and ready to go in platform poster cases once site visits allowed again.

Avanti West Coast

Stoke-on-Trent

Plans on hold for Platform 1 gravel garden (still waiting for new fence to be installed first) and trough planters on Platform 2/3.