

Community Rail Partnership Officers Report

NSCR Management Group meeting – 9 July 2020

Covering April - July 2020 period

General

- New CRP Officer (15 hours) recruited – Emma McIntosh – started 9 June, working Tuesdays and Thursdays, mainly on London Northwestern Railway (LNR) and Avanti West Coast projects at Stone, Penkridge, Stoke and Stone.
- Rails to Trails station walks booklet still in design stage with Stoke-on-Trent City Council. Design has been slow due to designer being taken off for other pandemic-related jobs. Ongoing. Routes will need to be given final check before going to print. Printing funded by CrossCountry.
- 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. Jayne has produced 4 preview films – Kidsgrove, Tutbury, Penkridge and Longton. She is working on Walk Leader guides for Kidsgrove, Penkridge, Stone, Alsager, Blythe Bridge and Tutbury, for led walks to be delivered next year. Project jointly funded by CRP and LNR.
- Brian will give update on Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Transforming Cities Fund application for lifts at Longton and car park at Longport.
- Meir Station Delivery Board: Brian, Mike and Emma to attend first meeting on 14 July.
- Artwork for the EMR station information boards for Stone and Penkridge is being sent for approval. Artwork for other boards is ready, but EMR partnership projects currently on hold.
- EMR Community Development Fund: We were delighted to be able to give £500 grants to three local charities affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. These went to: The Lyme Trust in Newcastle-under-Lyme to support the homeless; Scropton Riding Centre for the disabled; and ASHA North Staffs, a charity in Stoke-on-Trent which works with refugees and asylum seekers. Three further applications will be looked at by EMR Charities committee this month.

- *On Track* NSCRP Annual Progress Report currently being designed and should be ready for distribution later this month.
- Community Rail Network awards: entries have been submitted in the following categories:
 - It's Your Station (Kingsgrove, Alsager, Longport, Uttoxeter)
 - Most Enhanced Station (Uttoxeter)
 - Community Art Scheme – Permanent and Larger Projects (Longton)
 - Outstanding Volunteer Contribution (Mick Eyre, Mike Willmot)

Alsager

- Dementia Friendly signage agreed with Ross Heaton, EMR
- Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College Graphic Design students have designed the “connectivity” poster for Alsager Station. Guidance needed from EMR on when this should be finalised due to current guidance on non-essential rail travel and on route to change to Newark Castle (May 2021)

Kingsgrove

- Platform 2/3 store room ceiling repairs not completed yet – Alexa is chasing this.
- Access for All – no date for re-starting of work. Car park will also probably need to be surveyed for underground cavities.
- Kitchen cabinets to replace current tables for Spotter Tea by ticket office. Kevin to finalise details. Claire to apply for Community Rail Network (CRN) grant.

Longport

- 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. Most of the community activities are on hold until social distancing restrictions lifted. The group will be able to continue for another year in 2021 – 22 due to receipt of a (Covid-related) small business grant from the government.

Longton

- Wind shields have been ordered to protect the hay rack basket plants in this windy location. To be trialled with the 3 new baskets first.

Blythe Bridge

- Community licence granted by NR for work on bed adjacent to Platform 2. Community Day will be planned for autumn 2020 or spring 2021.
- Vandalism of one of the planters has been reported to BTP and CCTV footage requested from EMR. DSAR Ref: ET1037256

Tutbury and Hatton

- Talking to Bee Friendly Trust about planters to go at end of each platform.

Uttoxeter

- Uttoxeter U3A Urban Sketchers' art work for platform shelters being printed.
- Uttoxeter Adopters have EMR permission to install a tiered house leek planter on one of the platforms. CRN grant applied for.
- CRP to fund materials for adopters to attach a rainwater harvesting system to the top of the compost bins in the Heritage Garden.

Peartree

- NR has granted a community licence to access wooded areas adjacent to platforms to install animal boxes. Dave Savage from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to start project with schools when appropriate. Claire to apply for CRN grant.
- 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 done yet.

Penkridge

- Chase Aqua Rural Enterprise (CARE) mural ready for printing. Dan Coles is seeking clearance to put this up at the underpass entrance.
- 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 when group happy to start work.
- Phoenix Art Group art work ready to go into poster cases.

Stone

- Two new volunteers, Barbara and Rachel, have been working at the station and along the Station Approach. Have received safety briefing and suggested useful ideas for station improvements.
- Access to Platform 1: In preparation for possible Access for All funding application for CP7 (2024 – 29) Vicky to arrange a meeting with Simon Clifford to look at options.

Stoke-on-Trent

- Gravel garden on Platform 1: a temporary new fence has been installed. No time scale for permanent, taller, fence.
- Laura Harper is the new Station Manager.

- Trough planters for Platform 2/3: CRP Project Fund to be applied for these. Ruth Shaw has agreed to maintain them. Meeting to be arranged with Laura Harper and Community Champion, Alison Sweeney.

NSCRP 2020 - 2021 Income and Expenditure Summary			
as at 30 June 2020			
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Brought forward from 2019-20	39,000	CRPO and Active Travel Officer salaries (April 2020 - 31 March 2021)	50,500
Income from tocs (April 2020 to March 2021)	23,451	Plants, compost and gardening supplies	-
Income from local authorities (April 2020 - March 2021)	-	Design, printing, distribution costs	105
Grant from West Midlands Trains for Rails to Trails Engagement project	1,000	Travel, parking, subsistence	-
		Donation to The Lyme Trust Foodbank	500
		Other	-
Total income	63,451	Total expenditure	51,105
		Total Income minus Total Expenditure	- 12,346
		Reserve requirement	46,200

NSCRP April 2019 – March 2020 Income and Expenditure Summary

as at 7 July 2020			
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Brought forward from 2018-19	40,900	CRPO and Active Travel Officer (April 2019 - 31 March 2020)	35,780
Income from tocs (April 2019 to March 2020)	43,628	Plants, compost and gardening supplies	1,860
Income from local authorities (April 2019 - March 2020)	10,500	Design, printing, distribution costs	3,084
London Northwestern Railway Small Grants for Penkridge Station murals	688	Travel, parking, subsistence	1,412
XC Community Engagement Fund grant for printing of Station Walks booklet (to be completed end March 2020)	673	Public consultation (Longton)	2,000
Derbyshire City Council contribution to Derby Ram	1,325	New planters at Stone Station	1,024
Cross Country Community Engagement Fund Grant for Longport Waiting Room Gallery Community Activities	4,000	New planters at Longton Station	877
Food Bank Assistance from East Midlands Railway	500	Xmas Get Together room hire and lunch	628
Community Rail Development Fund grant for Longton Mural project	2,755	Artist fees for Uttoxeter pergola project	1,150
Total income	104,969	Longton Arches Project	5,665
		Kidsgrove store room ceiling repair	700
Carried Forward to 2020-21	39,000	Derby Ram sponsorship	5,250
		Cross Country Community Engagement Fund Grant for Longport Waiting Room Gallery Community Activities	4,000
		St George's Day at Stone	540
		Other	1,599
Total income	65,969	Total expenditure	65,569
		Total Income minus Total Expenditure	- 400