

# **Community Rail Partnership Officers Report**

## **NSCRP Stakeholder and Management Group meeting**

### **15 July 2021**

Covering period mid April to early July 2021

By Claire Sandys and Emma McIntosh

#### **General**

- The Rails to Trails station walks booklets (2000) have been distributed and a further 5000 will be printed soon. The guided walks will go ahead on six routes during the summer starting with Stone on 29 July.
- The Derby Ram Trail in Derby city centre is proving popular. When the promotion of train travel is permitted EMR will finalise and print posters at stations east of and including Stoke-on-Trent.

#### **Alsager**

- The triple celebration event on Tues 18 May was well attended and earned us a good write up in the Alsager Chronicle.
- No update received re. the CCTV cameras project (£8,000 EMR Stations Social Commercial Development Plan grant)

#### **Kidsgrove**

- The Towns Fund won by Kidsgrove includes money for the refurbishment of Kidsgrove Station. CS held a meeting with the station volunteers to discuss what they need in terms of spaces and resources, and what they would like in addition if possible. CS has forwarded their list to Rob Goulding.
- We have permission from EMR for the refurbishment of an old bench in memory of Bob Watts who started his 50 year railway career at Kidsgrove.

#### **Longport**

- No progress re. doing anything with the bonfire patch. Realistically, we should aim for an annual litter pick to try and keep the area tidy for a while at least.
- No progress yet re. erection of hoardings to prohibit entry underneath the “unsafe” canopy. We have been put in touch with Hannah Lilburne, Customer Account Manager Assistant, West Coast South route, Network Rail and are awaiting a response.

- No progress with gaining permission to scrape and paint boards over windows of station building.
- The Waiting Room Gallery has acquired new partners to run art exhibitions – Centre Space Arts – a creative non-profit arts organisation.

### **Longton**

- 3 new hayrack baskets have been installed recently and all have been planted up.

### **Blythe Bridge**

- The volunteers have worked extremely hard, twice a week, to remove the shrubs from the large overgrown raised bed by the car park. The station has been awarded an EMR Station Improvement Fund grant to create a red, white and blue rose garden to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year.
- Forsbrook Council would like to install a defibrillator at the station and we are waiting for permission from EMR to give them the go ahead.

### **Tutbury and Hatton**

- Bee Friendly Garden:
  - The two bee friendly planters were installed on 19 April and the plants are doing well.
  - The new fence dividing the garden from NR operational land, and access gate, have not been installed yet. Orders have been placed with B & K Property Services Limited to install and with EMR for 2 days' Construction Manager time.
  - CS is seeking permission from EMR and CRN to use left-over grant funding to landscape the rest of the garden area to make it level.

### **Peartree**

- Several trees have been removed or heavily cut back to reduce branches hanging over the public ramp and platform areas
- A successful action day took place on 13 April, attended by Peartree Station volunteers, CS and EMR staff. The rotting benches were removed and the raised beds refurbished and replanted.

### **Derby**

CS and several NSCRP volunteers attended a gardening day at Derby Station with volunteers from EMR, NR and CrossCountry. The garden is to be redeveloped in time for the Queens' Platinum Jubilee next year.

### **Penkridge**

- Chase Aqua Rural Enterprise (CARE) mural ready for printing. Still awaiting permissions from WMT.
- LNR have funded a new triangular planter for the subway which will be installed and planted up by volunteers in July.
- The Phoenix Art Club work has been reprinted on Dibond and WMT Estates Team will fit the Dibond replacements in July.
- Two new volunteers have started litter picking weekly at the station.

### **Stone**

- The Wildlife Friendly Station project, funded by the Bee Friendly Trust, Community Rail Development Fund and LNR, has now been given Landlord's Consent from Network Rail. We are working with partners to agree an installation date. The project will include the installation of a wildlife friendly raised bed garden, planters, art/story boards, educational session and community poster board.
- Network Rail granted a Community License for the wildflower patch on Station Approach and the volunteers prepared the ground and scattered the wildflower seeds. The wildflowers are just starting to come through. Permission for rain water harvesting from one of their adjacent buildings is being progressed separately by Network Rail.
- Futures2gether, a day centre that supports adults with learning disabilities and autism, have volunteered to water the wildflower patch and potentially other planters on Station Approach. They will receive their safety briefings this month to enable them to start.
- The installation of a defibrillator is planned, subject to Network Rail approval, in the BT phone box on Station Approach. Funding has been secured from LNR with a contribution from AED who will install and maintain the defibrillator and adopt the phone box.

### **Stoke-on-Trent**

- An application to Avanti's Station Community Fund has been submitted for three new planters for platforms 1 and 2. If successful these will be maintained by new volunteers at the station.
- Gravel/Bee Friendly garden on Platform 1: Planning permission has been given for the fence however there are further delays to the installation and Network Rail also plan to do some fencing works in the area. A site visit was held with the Bee Friendly Trust and a proposal for planters and a sculpture drawn up. Further conversations with Avanti Estates are required to agree the proposals prior to submit funding applications.
- Volunteering is currently still paused at Avanti stations.

**Stafford**

- A meeting took place with the Station Manager and Community Champion to identify potential projects for the station. Discussions are underway with Avanti Estates regarding permissions for planting projects and Mark Osborne is liaising with Network Rail to look at the possibility of creating a station garden on a disused track/platform.

**Crewe**

- Avanti have funded the Sherborne Urban Gardening Project in Crewe which supports a children's gardening group and adult peer support group as well as wider community related work. The funding will support the project for two years and we will work together to identify meaningful ways to connect the residents with the social value of the railway including providing children, young people and others with the skills and confidence needed to access the opportunities rail offers. Initially a consultation will be undertaken with the young people to identify their interests and see where links can be made.

**NSCRP EXPENDITURE AND INCOME SUMMARY 2021-22 Q1 – see separate document**