

**North Staffordshire
Community Rail
Partnership**

www.northstaffsrail.org.uk

**MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT GROUP
MEETING, THURSDAY 9TH JULY 2020,
HELD ON-LINE**

PRESENT: Donna Adams (DA), Jody Ball (JB), Jo Buckley (JB), Ian Clark (IC), Vicky Cropper-Clark (VC), Brian Edwards (BE), Emma McIntosh (EM), Claire Sandys (CS), Alexa Stott (AS), Paul Webster (PW), Chris Hegarty (CH), Michael Willmot (MW) (Chair)

1.	Apologies for absence	Action
	Dave Dowbenko (DD); Clare Horton (CH), Chris Hegarty (CH), Marika Latham (ML), Rowley Osborn (RO),, Austin Hannaby, Rob Goulding, Julie Dale, Alex Bray, Neil Roberts, Kate Smith	
2.	Welcome to Emma McIntosh, new Community Rail Partnership Officer Emma will be taking on particular responsibility for Stone, Penkridge, Crewe and Stoke, working with LNR and AWC.	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting (23/04/20) Agreed. CS reported that Network Rail would not attend future Management group meetings but would be circulated with the papers. They now attend regular meetings with Claire and Alexa from EMR, to discuss specific issues..	
4.	Election of Chair and Vice-chair MW was elected as chair and IC as vice chair unanimously both with 12 months terms	
5.	Community Rail Network (CRN) items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The weekly on-line newsletter continues (available at https://communityrail.org.uk/news/) • A new research report called 'Looking to the future: An exploration of youth engagement in rail has been released. See • https://communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Youth-engagement-report-final.pdf Responses are requested for the DfT Decarbonising Transport consultation, looking at sustainable modes of transport, by 31 August 2020. CRN will be running a webinar with the DfT at end of August. See https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/creating-the-transport-decarbonisation-plan • Forthcoming Webinar – 'Harnessing social media' hosted by Nik Schofield on 15th July • And Webinar – 'Recovery & Renewal' hosted by Jools Townsend- on 12th August • Small Grants and Community Rail Development Funds are still available for CRPs to bid to. • Note that NSCRP will need re-accrediting in October 	
6.	East Midlands Railway AS reported EMR timetable recovery with a new timetable with increased services due to start shortly. The message remains only travel if essential. December 2020 timetable changes have now been postponed to May 2021. This will include the extension of Crewe –Derby services to Newark Castle. Started some station adoption duties from Mid June. These are currently restricted to the under 70's but this is due to be reviewed at the beginning of August. Community Development and Station Improvement Funds are still on hold. Core funding for CRPs is re-affirmed.	
7.	London Northwestern Railway New timetable was launched at the weekend. Services are being reintroduced, including the Stoke – Birmingham service.	

	<p>Emergency timetable until 20th September when a new timetable will be introduced which is expected to run for 12 months at around 85% of previous service level.</p> <p>Will be introducing a seat finder service which will use a red/amber/green system to show how loaded the trains are.</p> <p>Core funding for CRPs is re-affirmed. The Customer and Community Improvement Fund is currently on hold but the Small Grants Fund is live.</p> <p>Currently meeting with station adopters to do safety briefings which include post COVID-19 advice to ensure they are covered by the insurance.</p>	
8.	<p>CrossCountry</p> <p>XC is introducing a new timetable which will include Chesterfield stops although Congleton stops have been removed. Hope that catering will soon return to services.</p> <p>Funding is paused for now and unsure when it will reopen. JB will follow up on the application submitted by CS for the Rails to Trails Engagement project.</p>	
9,	<p>Avanti West Coast</p> <p>Temporary timetable still in operation, fuller timetable expected shortly. Encouraging people to book ahead and make reservations.</p> <p>Both the Station Community Fund and Community Rail Project Fund remain open.</p> <p>Approval has been given for a new fence on Platform 1 at Stoke Station although there is no confirmed date as yet.</p> <p>Emma will be meeting with the station managers at Stoke (Laura Harper) and Crewe (Natalie Beer/Karen Grimshaw).</p>	
10.	<p>Network Rail</p> <p>-</p>	
11.	<p>Report from CRPO</p> <p>Rails to Trails station walks booklet still in design stage. Printing funded by CrossCountry. Jayne has produced 4 preview films and is working on Walk Leader guides for Kidsgrove, Penkridge, Stone, Alsager, Blythe Bridge and Tutbury. Project jointly funded by CRP and LNR.</p> <p>BE reported on the Transforming Cities Fund to which Stoke made an application for approximately £30 million. Longton improvements (including 2 lifts, covered stairs and a vestibule area) have progressed to the next stage, but not the application for Longport as the funding has been scaled back. Improvements to the approaches to Stoke station for car and cycle are also planned. A decision is expected in September. A more detailed discussion is needed with EMR.</p> <p>Meir Station Delivery Board: BE, EM & MW to attend first meeting on 14 July.</p> <p>EMR Community Development Fund: £500 grants to three local charities affected by the Coronavirus pandemic - The Lyme Trust in Newcastle-under-Lyme; Scropton Riding Centre for the disabled; and ASHA North Staffs</p> <p>On Track NSCRP Annual Progress Report currently being designed and should be ready for distribution later this month.</p> <p>Community Rail Network awards: entries have been submitted in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's Your Station (Kidsgrove, Alsager, Longport, Uttoxeter) • Most Enhanced Station (Uttoxeter) • Community Art Scheme – Permanent and Larger Projects (Longton) • Outstanding Volunteer Contribution (2 volunteers) <p>Alsager Dementia Friendly signage agreed with Ross Heaton, EMR and Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form</p>	

<p>College Graphic Design students have designed the Alsager Station “connectivity” poster</p> <p>Kidsgrove 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.</p> <p>Longport The Waiting Room Gallery has secured funding for a year to run community activities, thanks to receipt of grants from the EMR Community Development Fund and the Cross Country Community Engagement Fund. Most 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Tutbury and Hatton Talking to Bee Friendly Trust about planters to go at end of each platform.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Penkrige Chase Aqua Rural Enterprise (CARE) mural ready for printing. Dan Coles is seeking clearance to put this up at the underpass entrance. Penkrige 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.</p> <p>Stone Two new volunteers, Barbara and Rachel, 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.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>VC</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
12.	Any Other Business	
13.	Dates & Times of Next Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Thursday 15th October ➤ Thursday 21st January 2021 	

MFW/CS/ES
27/07/20