

PRESENT: Ian Clark (IC), Vicky Cropper-Clarke (VC), Dave Dowbenko (DD), Brian Edwards (BE), David Jones (DJ), Emma McIntosh (EM), Claire Sandys (CS), Alexa Stott (AS), Paul Webster (PW), Michael Willmot (MW) (Chair)

1.	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Donna Adams (DA), Peter Cousins (PC), Clare Horton (CH), Chris Hegarty (CH), Marika Latham (ML), Rowley Osborn (RO), Mark Osborne (MO), Austin Hannaby (AH)</p> <p>AH had difficulties in joining on Teams. MW to follow up</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>MW</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting (15/10/21)</p> <p>Accepted.</p> <p>VCC to pick up issues with Stone rail replacement bus stopping locations with Abellio.</p>	<p>VCC</p>
3.	<p>Transforming Cities Bid</p> <p>BE reported on the £30 million bid which has been accepted and on which detailed planning is now taking place. This includes £10 million for improvements to Stoke station access</p> <p>Summary of planned works here .</p> <p>These development s were welcomed, especially the improved second access at Stoke and the lift access at Longton was particularly pleasing. The Council has 3 years to deliver the project.</p> <p>DJ said CrossCountry Community Investment Fund, available from April 2021, could be used to fund small additional items.</p>	
4.	<p>Community Rail Network (CRN) items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Rail in the City hopes to proceed either in mid May or end of June • Rail Delivery Group and DfT continue to support community rail in part anticipating that leisure travel will lead the way in a post-Covid return to rail and CR has a part to play in promoting this • This year the Community Rail Conference will be on line: 4 half days over 2 weeks 8/9 & 15/16 March • This and other upcoming CRN events available on the CRN website events diary: https://communityrail.org.uk/events-training/events-diary/ • Also all are welcome to sign up to receive CRN’s weekly on-line newsletter. 	
5.	<p>EMR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMR new temporary timetable from 25th January with some off peak and less popular services temporarily removed • Enhanced cleaning and safety measures across depots, staff areas, trains and stations continue. • Train revenue and catering services temporarily suspended during the current lockdown. Revenue protection officers will not travel on trains but will continue to undertake their duties at stations. • Improved seat design on its way in the new Aurora bi-mode fleet. Classes 360s and 180s being introduced on the Midland Main Line and Class 170s into the regional fleet following 	

	<p>driver training. Several Class 153s have been retained to strengthen the Class 156 fleet for social distancing purposes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The latest performance figures show PPM across our routes at 94.6% against a target of 93.5%. On the Derby-Stoke-Crewe route, Right Time at Destination was 83.1%, PPM 87.2% and cancellations 5.9%. • Applications can be submitted for either the CDF or CRP SIF and will be forwarded to DfT for approval. Applications for the SSCDP will close on 31st January 2021. Projects due to be funded by the CRP Marketing Fund, put on hold in March 2020, will be included in the 2021/22 plan subject to DfT approval (decision expected by end of March 2021). The projects include: NSCRP station signage, NSCRP marketing collateral re-design and the Derby Ram Trail promotion • Derby Station Lift Renewal in progress completion due in April 2021. • Uttoxeter remains on the revised list of stations to be staffed. • EMR first TOC to introduce Smart Kiosk ticketing machines will issue both advance and walk up tickets as a printed bar code or direct to a smart card. Card payment only. Phase 1 will see kiosks at Derby (already installed) and Uttoxeter (installation w/c 19.01.2021), with further locations coming in phase 2, mainly on the North Staffs route and Lincolnshire. • Carbon Neutral Stations planned with photovoltaic panels installed to offset station's energy consumption, with stations remaining on-grid. Uttoxeter is one of the six stations included in the first phase. The lighting will be upgraded. • Innovation Competitions: "Wellbeing of Passengers" will launch on 1st February with a closing date of 14th February. The second competition will be "Stations Environment – Greener Stations" and will launch on 8th March with a closing date of 22nd March. An EMR working group will short list the top five ideas in each category and present them to the DfT who will select winners. Each competition has a £5k prize fund. CRPs and station adopters are to be encouraged to enter and further information will be shared when available. 	
6.	<p>Update on Alsager service restoration</p> <p>May 2021 timetable currently being worked on. AS will ask if services can be retimed to allow restoration of Alsager stop. Currently still expected that Nottingham extension will be introduced then.</p>	AS
7.	<p>London Northwestern Railway</p> <p>Revised timetable from 18/01 with some service reductions including two Birmingham – Crewe – Birmingham services / day with bus replacement services.</p> <p>Y2 of the CCIF (Customers and Communities Improvement Fund) will probably be available next year to the tune of £900,000, available for spending between June 2021 and July 2022. Awaiting confirmation from the DfT.</p> <p>Carol Parkes at Chasewater Aqua Rural Enterprise, Penkridge has received CCIF grant money from Y1 of the scheme. Station adoption activity is temporarily paused and will be reviewed at the end of the month.</p>	
8.	<p>CrossCountry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 year Operating Contracting Franchise Agreement (OCFA) recently introduced • 6 extra carriages for regional fleet (includes Birmingham –Nottingham service) • Core funding of now 25 CRPs continues, as do other funding streams. Bids above £5k might be delayed because DfT approval required. CrossCountry CEF funding will extend to heritage railways and be available for promoting improved links between heritage lines and NR stations. Foxfield Railway – Blythe Bridge station might be an eligible candidate. Or Crewe Heritage Centre. CS to follow up 	CS
9,	<p>Avanti West Coast</p> <p><i>Following the meeting, EM reported speaking with MO who confirms he would like us to take on Stafford (to be discussed with Jo Buckley). MO mentioned that he thinks it's Stafford Station's 60th birthday next year so we might want to do something to link with this.</i></p>	

10.	Network Rail -	
11.	<p>CRPOs' Report</p> <p>CS: She and Emma currently writing the action plan for 2021 – 22 and welcome any suggestions of activities from partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CRP has been awarded DfT accreditation for 2020-21, with some action points to be completed during the year. • Rails to Trails station walks booklet almost complete. We are asking station adopters and other community members to walk the routes to check them. • The CRP has been awarded a Community Rail Network CRDF grant of £1725 for the purchase of 5 new poster cases for community use: 3 at Peartree Station, 1 at Longport and 1 at Alsager. • Installation of EMR station information boards – EMR has committed to producing and installing these boards later in the year. • On-line children's art competition on the theme of 'The Railway in Autumn' received a lot of online interest, particularly via Facebook. Display poster of all entries is now at Longport Station. Winners have been sent art supplies, travel tickets to Longport Station and a free entry letter to Middleport Pottery, all valid for 1 year. • The CRP has supported the Hixon Memorial Project by submitting a funding application to Avanti for a contribution to a project to replace a damaged window in St Peter's Church, overlooking the memorial garden. • Community Rail Network awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It's Your Station – GOLD for Longport, Alsager and Uttoxeter and SILVER for Kidsgrove ○ Mike Willmot won 2nd place in the Outstanding Volunteer Contribution category • New volunteers have been recruited at Stone, Stoke and Longton Stations. Volunteering is on hold at LNR and Avanti stations during lockdown. <p>Alsager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dementia Friendly signage project is on track to be completed by end February. • The CRP continues to campaign for the reinstatement of the EMR service. <p>Kidsgrove</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The flat roof of the store room and adjoining waiting room is to be replaced by Network Rail in 2021 meanwhile not in use. • Access for All – Drilling has commenced. Completion date possibly October 2021. <p>Longport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV camera to monitor flytipping and bonfires: a camera on the passenger bridge or on the old waiting room would be unlikely to capture enough detail. County Councillor, John Cooper, and Newcastle Borough Councillor, Jennifer Cooper, have been contacted and are looking into the above problem <p>Longton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stoke-bound platform has three new hayrack baskets. <p>Blythe Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New fencing has been installed by EMR to replace rotting sections <p>Tutbury and Hatton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signal Box Garden: Funding for two large bee friendly planters has been approved as part of a larger Derbyshire-wide project and will be funded by CRN and the Bee Friendly 	

Trust. The CRP has applied for additional funding from EMR and CRN for the installation of new fencing around the plot.

Peartree

- Benches need replacing – Costed project proposal submitted to EMR for approval, response awaited.
- Railscape has quoted £13,195 for the removal of 5 ivy clad ash trees, a large pine and other work to make the station safer for passengers. No funding sources have yet been identified. AS suggested EMR SSCDP fund might be appropriate. DJ suggested XCCEF grant.
- Plan to source stencils to paint platform directions onto the wall adjacent to the road, to guide passengers.

Penkrige

- Chase Aqua Rural Enterprise (CARE) mural ready for printing. Still awaiting permissions from WMT.
- Continued vandalism in the waiting shelters means that only one poster case remains intact. Poster cases to be removed. The Phoenix Art Club work can be reprinted on dibond.

Stone

- The bid to LNR for planters underneath the information boards on Platform 2 was successful. These will be installed in the next few months.
- A bid to the Community Rail Development Fund and LNR, match funded by the Bee Friendly Trust, has been successful. The project will include the installation of a wildlife friendly raised bed garden, planters, dwarf trees, educational session and community poster board.
- Awaiting feedback from NR for permissions to create a wild flowered area on Station Approach with water harvesting from one of their buildings.
- Step free access to Platform 1: We have started collecting evidence of need for 2 lifts by writing to local authorities and community groups. We ask that people contact us regarding the current lack of step-free access to Platform 1 and how that affects them.
- The CRP have had a couple of articles published in the Stone Gazette. These include thanking the station volunteers for their work and Streetscene for their support in sweeping Station Approach as well as information to encourage new volunteers at the station and to request community views on station accessibility.

Stoke-on-Trent

- A proposal for six new planters for platforms 1 and 2 submitted to Avanti Estates Team in November, if granted a bid will be submitted to Avanti Station Community Fund. Hope that some of the planters can be made by Avanti station staff out of recycled wood.
- Gravel garden on Platform 1: A planning application for the new fence on platform 1 has been submitted. Timescales for installation of the fence will be determined once planning permission is received and then the proposal for the gravel garden can be progressed.
- Supporting the new Community Champion, Anthony Stanley, to identify relevant contacts to engage with in relation to the benefits of rail travel and how stations work to improve travel confidence.

NSCRP 2020 - 2021 Income and Expenditure Summary

as at 31 December 2020

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Brought forward from 2019-20	39,000	CRPO and Active Travel Officer salaries (April 2020 - 31 March 2021)	46,200
Income from tocs (April 2020 to March 2021)	49,122	Plants, compost and gardening supplies	562
Income from local authorities (April 2020 - March 2021)	4,500	Design, printing, distribution costs	1,745
Community Rail Network small grant for refurbishment of Spotter Tea at Kidsgrove Station	469	Travel, parking, subsistence	148
West Midlands Trains grants for Rails to Trails project (Engagement phase and booklet design)	2,000	Donation to The Lyme Trust Foodbank	500
West Midlands Trains grant for new planters at Stone Station	555	Other	632
West Midlands Trains grant for Penkridge Station mural	440		
Total income	95,206	Total expenditure	49,787
		Total Income minus Total Expenditure	- 45,419
		Reserve requirement	46,200

12. Any Other Business

- CS passed on thanks from the Reopening Meir Station group for the CRP's £500 contribution to match funding for the production of a business case for reopening the station.
- VCC confirmed that LNR Control will contact EMR Control when disruptions affect Alsager. In which case EMR will stop at Alsager.
- CH (by comment as had to leave the meeting early): Etwell Freight Depot to proceed, near Derby.

CRP Stakeholder meetings:

MW: It was agreed that the frequency of a wider CRP Stakeholder Meeting should be increased from annually (AGM) to every 6 months, to encourage wider involvement.

The next Management Group Meeting, on 15 April, will be preceded by a wider Stakeholder Meeting.

Due to the pandemic the AGM will be moved from July to October 2021 to increase the chance of being able to meet face-to-face.

PW: this could be a mixture of online and face-to-face engagement where video facilities permit (e.g. at Stoke Civic Centre?)

13. Dates & Times of Next Meetings

- Thursday April 15th
- Thursday July 15th
- Thursday October 14th (AGM)