

PRESENT: Donna Adams (DA), Jo Buckley (JB), Ian Clark (IC), Vicky Cropper-Clark (VC), Dave Dowbenko (DD), Brian Edwards (BE), Clare Horton (CH), David Jones (DJ), Marika Latham (ML), Rowley Osborn (RO), Claire Sandys (CS), Alexa Stott (AS), Paul Webster (PW), Michael Willmot (MW) (Chair)

1.	Apologies for absence Peter Cousins (PC), Chris Hegarty (CH), Julie Dale, Rob Goulding, Neil Roberts	Action
2.	Minutes of the last meeting (14/01/20) The heating is fixed at the Longport Waiting Room Gallery. Reported that the Peartree Station tree work required is delayed by Covid although IC had managed to do some clearing. DA has spoken to Network Rail about this and will chase them.	DA
3.	Community Rail Network (CRN) items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now producing a weekly newsletter (available at https://communityrail.org.uk/news/) • Community rail work is continuing in the form of on-line versions of events e.g. quizzes, book club, VE Day concerts in care homes • Impact Tool – enabling recording of impact of CRPs and Station Adopters now available • Connected Communities report about integrated transport now available, developed in partnership with W Midlands Trains. • Youth Engagement toolkit – should be available at the end of May • Programme of members seminars/webinars – details available on website. • CRN awards event now postponed to 9th December, date being kept under review • Home/ school learning resources now available on the CRN website at https://communityrail.org.uk/resources-ideas/reports-resources-tools/ 	
4.	East Midlands Railway Alexa Stott, EMR Ambassador, was welcomed as NSCRP’s new primary contact with EMR Drop in ticket sales and revenue has led to the introduction of a reduced timetable introduced during lockdown period which is likely to last at least to September 2020. <u>Emergency Measures Arrangement (EMA): During this period the government has picked up all revenue and cost risk and the TOC is paid a management fee to continue running services. CRP funding streams to TOCs apart from core funding are at present uncertain. Also reported by all other TOCs and not repeated in minuting in sections below.</u> May timetable changes on hold (applies to all NSCRP TOCs) New Service Quality Regime introduced in the new franchise, but measures currently suspended. But SSTs continue to monitor the stations to keep them safe and tidy. During suspension of schemes supporting station adoption, EMR Community Development funds are being used for supporting community projects in crisis (such as foodbanks) including, in Newcastle-under-Lyme, the Lyme Trust. AS is providing a weekly newsletter to station adopters and suggestions for CR activities during lockdown appear on the EMR website. E.g. Hidden Gems artwork and Station Stories (photos, stories, memories, to be collected together). There is also a weekly email with prizes. IC asked about EMR revenue collection and staffing. AS said that revenues are very small and	

staffing is adequate.

London Northwestern Railway

VC reported loadings down by 95% and few services have been suspended. Locally this includes the Crewe – London service via Stoke. This leaves Stone without a rail service but LNR has received no feedback from their special key workers email address. This suggests that no key workers are currently using the service at Stone.

CrossCountry

XC is encouraging CRPs unable to spend 2019-20 project funding to spend it elsewhere if possible.

Passenger numbers down about 96%. Cleaning audits performed by managers.

DJ reported that apart from service reductions all operators are applying? XC is making some extra station calls where these can help hospital staff for example in Birmingham at University. There is still an hourly service from Stoke to Manchester. Possible timetable changes from 27 April.

XC working with Intercity Rail Freight to transport Covid testing materials

Avanti West Coast

JB reported that hourly services were being maintained at Crewe and Stoke. Action for Children and food hubs were being supported. Current station manager contacts were Karen Grimshaw (interim manager) at Crewe and Natalie Beer at Stoke.

NSCRP core funding confirmed.

Stoke on Trent

Awaiting approval from the Conservation Officer re the fence that can installed on Platform 1 before the gravel garden project can commence. Fence needs to be replaced for security reasons as the station is being accessed when the station is closed. We also look forward to working with you and Ruth on the installation of 2 planters on Platform 2/3 as well as getting the station adopted or have a 'friends of' group.

Crewe

We also look forward to working with you and the new CRPO also getting this station adopted or finding a 'friends of' group.

5. Report from CRPO

CS circulated her report ahead of the meeting and was thanked for all she had achieved during the previous quarter. Due to the Covid-19 crisis, EMR has encouraged CRPOs to apply for £500 Community Development Fund grants for affected community organisations, such as food banks. The Lyme Trust in Newcastle-under-Lyme has received one grant. Four other applications have been made, for: ASHA N Staffs, the North Staffs Foodbank, Scropton Riding Centre, Sanctus St Mark's and Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank.

Emma McIntosh is planning to start her CRPO role on 2nd June.

Jayne Clamp has started on the engagement phase of the Rails to Trails station walks project, 1 day a week for 6 months.

CS asked CH about the situation regarding maintenance of Highways England land adjacent to Longport Station, where flytipping and bonfires continue. CH stated she had asked the SCC Waste Team (manager, Tim Cooper) before Xmas to attend the site. This has not happened. She has chased this again.

The NSCRP April 2020 - March 2021 Action Plan drafted by CS was approved. PW suggested that some activities may have to be pushed forward to next year due to social

	<p>distancing rules. On line activities should be considered in the meantime.</p> <p>VC: LNW is taking volunteers' mental health into account and is relaxing rules on visiting stations on a case by case basis, if this can be part of a daily walk.</p> <p>AS: EMR is following government guidance and is not encouraging the presence of any extra people on stations.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>BE reported on the Transforming Cities Fund to which Stoke made an application. Project would include infrastructure improvements around Stoke and Longton stations, including installation of lifts at Longton. But funding restrictions (reduced from £50m to £30m) meant sections on improvements to the Stoke station building and the area around Longport will probably be withdrawn. Revised bid submission date is in June 2020. The delivery period has not been changed, with end date still set at November 2023.</p> <p>BE: City Council was also considering an application to DfT Restoring Your Railway "Ideas" Fund and was considering three possible projects submitted by MPs: re-opening Meir station; re-opening Etruria station and re-opening the mothballed Stoke – Leekbrook line Stoke – Leek project would be led by Staffs Moorlands District Council. The opportunity is to bid for £50,000 to develop plans, but BE not sure how much would be needed from the City Council.</p> <p>MW: Churnet Valley Railway has been awarded £1.4m to extend to Leek by the European Agency for Rural Development.</p> <p>CH reported on bid to Northern's Customer & Community Fund (CCIF) for work to improve Kidsgrove station forecourt as a transport interchange and for a new station building there. These would be linked to Kidsgrove Town Development plans. Projects still at proposal stage whilst the Access for All funding for the new station footbridge is secure and it is hoped work will resume as soon as lockdown permits.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Dates & Times of Next Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Thursday 9th July @3.00 pm followed by AGM @ 5.00 pm at Longton Methodist Hall if physical meeting permitted, otherwise on-line ➤ Thursday 15th October ➤ Thursday 21st January 2021 	

MFW/CS
27/04/20