North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership

www.northstaffsrail.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT GROUP, THURSDAY 19TH JANUARY ON-LINE

PRESENT: Debby Adams (DA), Ian Clark (IC), Jody Ball (JB), Vicky Cropper-Clark, (VCC), Emma McIntosh (EM), Rowley Osborn (RO), Mark Osborne (MO), Claire Sandys (CS), Rachel Selby (RS), Alexa Stott (AS), Luke Tinning (LT), Natasha Wilkinson (NW), Michael Willmot (MW) (Chair)

1.	Apologies for absence	Action
	Chris Hegarty, JoJo Buckley, Paul Webster, Rob Goulding, Kaye Robinson, Brian Edwards, Neil Roberts	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting (13/10/22)	
	Rachel Selby was welcomed and introduced herself as a Stone station volunteer.	
	Debby Adams from Cheshire East was also welcomed to her first meeting. DA works in the strategic transport under Richard Hibbert.	
	Peartree: Dave Dowbenko has now left Derby City Council before responding about possible bus shelter availability. MW will follow up – he is also seeing if the Council can nominate a replacement for Dave.	MW
	MW took the opportunity of recording thanks to Dave for his valuable contributions during his time on the Management Group	
	Stafford EM corrected the last minutes to say it was CS who was in contact with Neil Eastwood at AWC.	
3.	CRPOs report	
	The current Action Plan was circulated ahead of the meeting	
	Blythe Bridge: should there be a sign by the station car park exit directing people to the Foxfield Railway given there is a difficult road crossing outside the station and a length of road without pavement?	
	During discussion	
	LT felt a sign wouldn't be useful given the route included a section without a pavement - although there is a Council sign showing the direction to take outside the station.	
	CS reported there will be further information on a station poster to be installed soon with a map	
	RO stated that station is on Stafford BC and Staffs Moorland boundary. He would enquire of Highways if anything can be done to improve the crossing for pedestrians arriving at or departing from the station. Not hopeful as there is a junction close by	RO
	MW: new housing developments might bring in Section 106 money for a safe crossing. Or could there be a "Pedestrians crossing here" sign to warn drivers?	
	After discussion it was felt that the station information sign which should shortly be put up should be sufficient.	CS
	Uttoxeter: Mural now finished. Plans for small opening ceremony for funders, town council reps etc with possibly a buffet at the Racecourse (who contributed £500 to the mural). CS will progress and circulate some possible dates.	
	AS reported that there is a new community liaison officer at the Racecourse and the town	

	council is hopeful of a more positive relationship. (Tina at EMR should be able to provide CS with contact info).	
	AS also reported that EMR is in the middle of a fleet cascade and she hopes more race day services will be able to be strengthened.	
	Penkridge: poetry workshop working with Wolgarston High will now go into the school in March immediately after a Rail to Trails walk led by EM	
	Stone: Bee Friendly Trust are unable to commit to new projects in 2023/24. EM will explore other options	
	Income & Expenditure Report was circulated ahead of the meeting. CS introduced this and confirmed that around £69k should be carried forward to next year which exceeds our strategic reserve target. Thanks were expressed to Julie Colclough at the City Council who has worked with CS in keeping account and preparing report.	
4.	DfT & Community Rail Network - Accreditation renewal post-meeting report	
	Update on issues that were raised	
	 AWC have allocated a member of staff to deliver the safety briefings with volunteers at Stoke Station so these should be completed soon. 	
	 Landlord's Consent: some movement on reviewing items which need LLC – e.g. LLC for two dibond posters at Stafford probably no longer required. MO admitted that Avanti needs to be more consistent in its response. 	cs
	 Local authority partners to be followed up to ensure 22/23 contributions are received. 	
	JB reminded the meeting that current XC contract runs only to October so short year funding only	
	New website building progressed and should be launched shortly	MW
	 Macclesfield: MW reported he had been in touch with Dave Roberts, the potential Macclesfield station volunteer – who has had delays with his house purchase but MW has agreed to meet with him when he has settled. 	IVIVV
5	CRN items	
	PW had sent a message to say the accreditation process had gone smoothly and that confirmation of accredited status should be expected from the DfT soon	
	MW reported he hopes to attend the CRN chairs meeting in Birmingham next Wednesday	
6.	EMR items	
	For all TOCS increase in penalty fare fines from 23 rd Jan from £20 to £100 – reduced to £50 for prompt payment	
	Ban on e-skateboards & e-scooters on trains because of safety concerns about battery (does not apply to e-bikes due to safer location of batteries)	
	Car electric charging points introduced at Loughborough	
	T3 performance measure (< 3mins late at every station) currently at 76.7%	
	Class 170 cascade continues & class 156 being withdrawn	
	A new aurora seat testing trial available at Derby	
	EMR community fund remains available for schools, community groups and charities within 9 miles of an EMR managed station. Application forms available from AS	
	Jason Cocker is now station manager at Derby.	
	Smart kiosk wit CIS screen scheduled for installation at Longton	
	Poster case renewal project still in progress completed later in the year.	
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Recruitment campaign for drivers from diverse backgrounds AS confirmed that where ticket machines are available it is expected tickets will be purchased before boarding a train. It was suggested where a passenger is unavoidably delayed and fails to buy a ticket they should make themselves known to the train crew on boarding to explain circumstances and buy ticket. There is a need for educating train users on these matters. LNR items AS/ Combined LNR/EMR timetable poster is in preparation for Longport and will replace the current VCC ones. AS & VCC will meet outside the meeting to confirm arrangements December 22 Timetable change Early indications show that from a performance and reliability perspective the December timetable is working well. Survey launched for feedback on timetable change; below is a link to the survey and we would welcome comments from passengers and stakeholders – link at https://www.londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk/december-timetable-change/feedback Revenue Protection and changes to Penalty Fares – as reported by EMR above Sadly reports of increased antisocial behaviour on some routes, measure put in place to combat this Industrial Relations: RMT are considering the latest offer from the RDG. Removal of Driver Only Operation (DOO) but ASLEF have just rejected the latest deal and will be striking on 1 and 3 February Stakeholder Engagement Forthcoming series of stakeholder meetings to hear from managers across the business and feed into upcoming timetable changes. The dates are; ➤ Thursday 16 February at 1000 –December 2023 timetable change > Tuesday 4 April at 1000 –LNR business update and opportunity for attendees to request updates on specific topics > Tuesday 4 July at 1000 -May 2024 timetable change > Tuesday 10 October at 1000 -LNR business update and opportunity for attendees to request updates on specific topics Open to CRP officers and chairs and local councils and rail user groups Forthcoming volunteer gathering: details expected in next two weeks **Upcoming Engineering Work** Sundays 22 and 29 January - Rail replacement Rugby - Stafford Sundays 12 and 19 March – Wolverhampton local services served by rail replacement Sunday 3 April -Rail replacement between Birmingham International -Rugby and Nuneaton –Leamington Spa Easter -West Coast South blocked. There will be a bus plan to / from Stanmore to Bedford, Abbey Line blocked, Cross City North blocked, Trent Valley and Liverpool services also impacted

8 **CrossCountry**

7

JB will alert the CRP when the May 2023 timetables become available

CS asked about future of ticket offices uncertain - in the hands of DfT

JB

- Small amount of community grant funding left open until end of March
- Community conference in March details shortly

AvantiWestCoast

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	 New timetable on 11 December increased number of trains/hour. This seems to be working well. No reliance on rest day working should improve reliability 	
	T3 performance needs to be improved	
	 Re-scheduled engineering works means weekend tickets only available at short notice. NW confirmed industrial action at NR has caused short notice rescheduling of engineering works 	
	Carstairs engineering works anticipated in March which will require timetable alterations	
	Like EMR, recruitment campaign for drivers especially women	
10.	Any Other Business	
	 NW confirmed that as soon as she has possible dates for a Kidsgrove footbridge opening event she will let CS and MW know 	NW
	 CS queried NR's promise to help with litter clearing at Longport. NW will look into this and find a contact to pass on to Claire 	NW
11	Dates & Times of Next Meetings	
	 Wednesday May 3rd at 09.45 face-to-face / blended meeting probably at Derby (CS to book venue) 	cs
	Thursday 27 th July? at 10.00 am by Teams	

MFW/CS/EM 26/01/23