



PRESENT: Debby Adams (DA), Ian Clark (IC), Jody Ball (JB), Alison Cotterill (AC), Dave Dowbenko (DD), Cara Higgs (CH), Emma McIntosh (EM), Claire Sandys (CS), Rachel Selby (RS), Alexa Stott (AS), Luke Tinning (LT), Michael Willmot (MW) (Chair), Paul Webster (PW), Gill Westwood (GW), Natasha Wilkinson (NW)

1.	Apologies for absence Brian Edwards, Rowley Osborn, Mark Osborne, Rob Goulding, Neil Roberts, Kaye Robinson, Jenny Marston	Action
2.	Welcome to new members Gill Westwood (Network Rail) was welcomed.	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting (19/10/23) & Matters Arising There were no matters arising	
4.	Update on CRPO appointment MW reported that only one candidate with the necessary qualifications and experience had applied and so the post is being re-advertised and it is now hope to hold interviews on Feb 22 nd .	
5.	<p>CRPOs report on previous year's Action Plan The Action Plan was circulated with the papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longport. Permission to cover up old window and door boards with new ones printed on dibond for durability. Listed building status requires the new design to be the same as the old. EMR design team will start work on these by the end of this month. EMR has committed grant funding for the printing of the boards. • Derby Garden project. Team of Tracsis volunteers and gardening tools purchased with EMR grant and funding applied for from CrossCountry for three new planters – now approved. NR funding to be spent on improved lighting – to be installed by EMR. AS has submitted project mandate to EMR. Completion hoped for by May 2024. • Kidsgrove station storeroom (platform2/3) – in NR West Coast area (Gill and Alison). Roof to be reinstated. AS thought work was underway but just on roof leaks. Some work required on internal refurbishment. RHT have been interested and may fund this because it is an unusual building. Discussion with volunteers required to establish best fitting out details. • Funding for pigeon mitigation at Longton. Grant funding committed by CRN and EMR. Discussion with Rob Goulding at NR on how to progress. Natasha will follow up. PW trusted project would be completed before financial year end. • Love Exploring augmented reality app. Discussion if we should be involved. Costs around £8k + annual charge (for 6 trails) and no guarantee that people would arrive by train. LT commented that technology now good but might be a niche interest. A simpler project might be Symbol spot = a post at each station with 'brass rubbing' opportunity. LNR did consider a similar project but did not proceed. IC urge caution on ground of uncertain future funding. • Stone new planters on platform 2 & station approach + a community open day. Sleepers can't be used because of inability to confirm non-flammable materials so other wood will be used. Issues with supplier completing RAMS paperwork so EM has asked LNR if she can complete on the suppliers' behalf. No longer going ahead with station approach planters due to the number of planters and volunteer capacity. As the costs will be lower due to fewer planters and different materials CRN funding will not be required. The planters outside the station building will be painted. • PW to check which funding year the CRN money came from. 	<p>CS</p> <p>PW</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stone Open Day on Wednesday March 13th. All welcome to attend the open day. Could funding be spent on Open Day – mime artists? Souvenirs? Marketing materials? Separate application for such materials. RS: Volunteers will meet to discuss money spend. Poetry mural has been installed on the overbridge at Crewe designed by AWC in house. School poetry event to be held at Station on 7th March on World Book Day (mural well worth viewing when pass through Crewe station) 	
6.	<p>CRN items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accreditation renewal meeting before Christmas went well – nothing significant apart from forthcoming personnel changes CRN awards in Swansea on 18 March Education and sustainable transport networks now set up Community Rail Week (20 – 26 May 2024) Alex Peel can offer a CRP a Visioning meeting – could be useful for the new team when in post 	
7	<p>EMR items (a full report is provided alongside these minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMR talk cards available Warning about fake social media accounts QR codes now available at some regional stations to obtain local information Some funding still available for this financial year – applications & enquiries welcome Station improvements: new fence at Tutbury & Hatton and there will be new signage and lighting. New platform benches. New LRD lighting on many stations Peartree waiting shelters due to start in mid Feb. Also Alsager (Crewe bound platform) but not until the end of May All stations to have tactile paving by 2025 Artwork at Derby station should be put up shortly December timetable put back most Mon-Fri trains. Further discussion with EMR and especially James Chapman to prepare a case for return of the remaining missing services All exhorted to vote for the Kettering station adopters shortlisted photo [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CRA2024] IC requested a gate into the recreation ground, would enable area to be maintained – a lot of litter has accumulated. Fence belongs to NR but there may be security issues. CS has been in touch with Rob Goulding. NW to check CS is continuing to do survey work and noted the appreciative comments of passengers about the services that have returned. However there was a comment that services are not sufficiently strengthened on Uttoxeter race days, IC wondered if passenger numbers between Nottingham & Newark and Nottingham & Derby where there is a more frequent than hourly service is dragging down the train loading statistics for the whole line. 	<p>MW CS All NW</p>
8	<p>LNR items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CH introduced herself as Community Strategy Manager with responsibility for both LNR and WMR routes, working with CRPs. (posts reorganised since Vicky C-C's departure). Updates on operations will be given at regular stakeholder meetings by members of the wider WMT team. Next meeting on Feb 14th. Victoria Harris (Victoria.harris@wmtrains.co.uk) has the brief of making station adoption group visits and is the person station adopters should contact. Victoria also looks after school visits. There will also be an opportunity for a monthly time at which station adopters can call in. Following review new on-line forms 'a new toolkit' will shortly be available for station adopters Still funding available needs to be used by the end of March but applications for next year should be planned where appropriate 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webpage for strike day information (next on Feb 3rd) • Crewe – Stafford service: consultation on next timetable period just finishing but this service is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future • MW raised the question of the Longport service noting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Longport was the one station on the line where post Covid recovery was greater than 100% (104%) and therefore potential for growth ○ When its service was switched from EMR to LNR, it was with the attraction of a through service to Birmingham. This has now been withdrawn with passengers being advised to change at Stoke ○ Since the EMR service serves Stoke as well as all stations to Newark, it might be that passengers would prefer to revert to the EMR service ○ Is it worth the CRP surveying Longport passengers? 	MW CS
9	CrossCountry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCIF application gone through; still money available - must be out of XC account by 31 March 24 and spent by end Dec 24. • Aslef strikes days at end of month 	
10.	Avanti West Coast In MO's absence, no report	
11	Any Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natasha reported she would be on maternity leave from the end of march. Members of the team expressed congratulations and good wishes • Provisional date for station volunteers' gathering Tue 16th April (to be confirmed) 	
	Dates & Times of Next Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and Stakeholders meeting on Thursday 18th April (blended meeting) 	

MFW/CS/EM
25/01/24