

PRESENT: Ian Clark (IC), Jody Ball (JB), Dave Dowbenko (DD), Cara Higgs (CH), Alan Marsden (AM), Rowley Osborn (RO), Mark Osborne (MO), Claire Sandys (CS), Rachel Selby (RS), Alexa Stott (AS), Paul Webster (PW), Natasha Wilkinson (NW), Michael Willmot (MW) (Chair), Luke Tinning (LT)

1.	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Vicky Cropper-Clark, Brian Edwards, Julie Colclough, Emma McIntosh</p>	Action
2.	<p>Welcome to new members</p> <p>Alan Marsden (Derbyshire County Council), Cara Higgs (West Midlands Trains), Dave Dowbenko (independent member, formerly with Derby City Council)</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting (03/05/23) & Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longport station. Replacing and redecorating window shutters on platform 1 – now delayed until next year • Planned posters for Longport to be put on railings under the canopy. Designed by Stoke Sixth Form College to mark the 100th anniversary of the Knotty • Platform directions at Peartree now complete apart from the arrows. Claire to follow up • Water harvesting at Longton is proving difficult as vertical tubular steel shelter support columns act as downspouts – difficult to divert the water. New Amberol barrier planters have now been fitted. 	CS
4.	<p>CRPOs report on previous year's Action Plan</p> <p>At Stone there is now a water butt on both platforms – on platform 1 draining from the platform shelter, provided by London Northwestern Railway and on platform 2, from the roof of the old lamp building – thanks to Network Rail. Lamp Room building now being used as a tool store. Volunteers most appreciative of these developments.</p> <p>Mains water has now been provided at Tutbury and Hatton, with grateful thanks to Nestle.</p> <p>Acknowledged that NSCRP's budget is likely to be reduced from this year onwards. Only 75% of previous funding from WMT. [CS, post meeting, Remaining 25% received recently!] Cross Country funding runs only until October.</p> <p>Blythe Bridge fence painting to be chased by AS</p> <p>Stoke Station: Cleaning of Stoke Road pavement as it goes under the railway line, reported by AS</p>	
5	<p>CRN items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful webinar on ticket office closures on 20 July but yesterday it was announced consultation period had been extended until September 1st. • Chairs' Network seminar on-line 9.45 -12.45 on Mon Sept 25th. • Likely reduced funding for CRPs. Future webinar on alternative funding sources • CRDF funding is still available. And Small Grants for station adopters. • New Community rail and inclusive accessible travel report now available on the CRN website: Our latest publications & webinars - Community Rail Network • Siemens in Derby has become a corporate partner and give staff time to spend a day to volunteer on station maintenance and improvement projects. Noted that Thales at Crewe is also very supportive of local CRPs 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Rail Awards open for submissions on 11 September. 																					
6.	<p>EMR items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinstatement of hourly Crewe – Derby service. AS said an announcement about changes which would be included in the December 23 timetable is imminent. She hopes to meet with CS & MW next week to discuss this and unanswered questions about ticket office closures. Laura Etheridge and Will Rogers met with Kate Kniveton MP and Jack Breerton MP last week. CRP has started a petition at ipetition.com. IC: Rail replacement bus service is slow and driver at Derby recommended quicker to catch next train to Stoke rather than bus. Probably due to current re-routing of A50 through Blythe Bridge due to Cadent roadworks. Community Fund remains open (to March 2024). Open to CRPs, but not to community groups. Details at : https://www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk/community-fund. Routes of Remembrance On Friday 10th November. CRPs and station adopter groups are once again invited to support the day either at stations along the route or by attending the service at Derby. <p>A poetry workshop has been organised to create a poem to mark this year’s event. This is taking place on Wed 2nd August in Nottingham – places are still available if anyone would like to take part. There is one workshop in the morning, another in the afternoon. EMR will cover train travel costs to Nottingham.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derby Station CRP Marketing Installation of route maps and artwork promoting the North Staffs and DVL CRPs. The North Staffs CRP artwork will be in the P2/3 waiting room – most Crewe services depart from this platform. A full report from EMR is attached with these minutes. 	AS CS MW																				
7	<p>LNR items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LNR report was circulated with the agenda for this meeting. Some discussion of the proposed and current change to the Crewe – Birmingham service. Currently journey time is extended by around 15 minutes because of its diversion around the Black Country loop. Planned changes are given here: <p>Birmingham New Street – Crewe via Stoke-on-Trent</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="172 1541 1362 2018"> <thead> <tr> <th>BHM-SOT Indicative journey time comparison</th> <th>Dec '21 (Direct service via SGB)</th> <th>Dec '22 (Direct service via TAB)</th> <th>Dec '23 (Indirect service – change at STA)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Morning peak southbound 08:xx</td> <td>58 minutes</td> <td>74 minutes</td> <td>58 minutes (5 mins connection at STA)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Off-peak southbound</td> <td>58 minutes</td> <td>73 minutes</td> <td>58 minutes (5 mins connection at STA)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Off-peak northbound</td> <td>50 minutes</td> <td>67 minutes</td> <td>59 minutes (12 mins connection at STA)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Evening peak northbound 17:xx</td> <td>52 minutes</td> <td>67 minutes</td> <td>56 minutes (5 mins connection at STA)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BHM-SOT Indicative journey time comparison	Dec '21 (Direct service via SGB)	Dec '22 (Direct service via TAB)	Dec '23 (Indirect service – change at STA)	Morning peak southbound 08:xx	58 minutes	74 minutes	58 minutes (5 mins connection at STA)	Off-peak southbound	58 minutes	73 minutes	58 minutes (5 mins connection at STA)	Off-peak northbound	50 minutes	67 minutes	59 minutes (12 mins connection at STA)	Evening peak northbound 17:xx	52 minutes	67 minutes	56 minutes (5 mins connection at STA)	
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Birmingham New Street – Crewe via Stoke-on-Trent

Indicative connection times through Stafford

Arrive Stafford southbound

xx:16 – WMT (CRE-STA)



Depart Stafford southbound

xx:21 XC (STA-BHM)
xx:25 Avanti (STA-BHM)

Arrive Stafford northbound

xx:32 – XC (BHM-STA)
xx:38 – WMT* (BHM-STA)
*SX peak and SO all day only



Depart Stafford northbound

xx:43 WMT (STA-CRE)

- Noted that Longport station users might be especially disappointed having accepted change of Longport service from EMR to Derby & Nottingham for LNW to Birmingham, now to learn that direct service will take them only as far as Stafford.
- CH has met with N Staffs Rail User Group and will attend their meeting this evening. IC: 5 minute connections at Stafford insufficient if need to cross a bridge. MW: needs further discussion.

8 CrossCountry

- Funding arrangements only until October when CrossCountry's current contract ends. Note that any XC funding must be spent by then (though projects do not need to be completed by then). Project funding has been delayed by DfT. Previously submitted applications will be considered first.
- No news on XC contract post October.

9 Avanti West Coast

- **MO's updating notes for the meeting are attached separately. The main update points:**
 - Closing date of the consultation to September 1.
 - Full details of the consultation, including links to Transport Focus and London Travelwatch where you can submit response, can be found here: www.avantiwestcoast.co.uk/consultation
 - Only proposals at this stage.
 - There will also be discussions with staff and their trade union representatives as the results of public consultation become clearer. Once the proposed changes have been agreed, they will be phased over the next three years.
 - Engineering Work (Reduced Avanti West Coast Services)
 - Euston Half Closures – July - 29, August - 5, 6, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28
 - Trent Valley Block
 - Stoke Block – August 20, 27
 - Northampton Block – September 2nd to 10th
 - Stoke Council's TCF scheme on site Major work on Station Road planned for January 2024 start
 - Stafford - Station Forecourt Scheme – Autumn 2023
 - Crewe Sector Rail Forum
- **Feel Good Fieldtrips have been successful**

10. Any Other Business

- NW reported that NR volunteers would join a volunteer day at Uttoxeter on 10th August

AS

11 Dates & Times of Next Meetings

- Thursday 19th October at 15.00 (face-to-face & followed by AGM @ 17.00)

CS