

## **SOUTH FYLDE LINE CRP Action Plan update**

### **API: Community Rail Development (CRDS pillars 1, 3 & 4)**

#### **1. Restoring Your Railway (RYR)**

As the management group will be aware a successful RYR bid was made by the two local MPs namely Mark Menzies and Scott Benton. Co-ordination of the project has been taken over by Fylde Borough Council (FBC) with Andrew Loynd in the lead. A project steering group has been formed comprising representatives from Lancashire County Council, FBC, Blackpool Council, CRL, Northern, Network Rail and DfT.

The project if ultimately successful will see services on the SFL improved with possibly the introduction of a passing loop to enable a half hourly heavy rail service to operate between Preston and Blackpool South. However, the study will have to evaluate other alternatives as well including tram-train and conversion to light rail.

The next stage in the project is to produce a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) and consultants Stantec have been commissioned by FBC to develop this. Stantec recently completed the SOBC for the Clitheroe – Hellifield project. For more information about this click on the link below:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/restoring-your-railway-clitheroe-to-hellifield/>

Recent articles about the project can be viewed at:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/next-steps-for-the-south-fylde-line/>

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/developing-the-south-fylde-line-bid-success/>

#### **2. Accreditation**

The accreditation meeting for CRL and the 4 Lancashire CRPs, including the South Fylde Line CRP, took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> October at Burnley Manchester Rd. The meeting was chaired by Martin Clarke from the Community Rail Network. Ian Davis from the CRN was also present. Martin and Ian are now drafting a report and will recommend to the DfT whether or not to reaccredit us. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for the meeting and to those who attended it including Tony Ford.

#### **3. ComREG (Northern's Community Rail Executive Group)**

The SFLCRP regularly updates ComREG on the activities of the CRP. Reports can cover all the good news of which there is plenty as well as any issues that the CRP and/or station partnerships are facing. I sit on ComREG as the representative for the Central Area CRPs. Dawn McGough represents the West Area CRPs.

Seed Corn and station adoption grants are available so make sure you get your bids in. For more information about them use the link below:

[www.northernrailway.co.uk/community/2433-funding](http://www.northernrailway.co.uk/community/2433-funding)

The next ComREG meeting is on the 17<sup>th</sup> November and will include CRP reports. Dawn will be contacting Tony for the latest update from the SFL if she hasn't already.

**4. Education update (see also AP6)**

A separate report setting out recent educational engagement activity is being separately circulated.

**5. 100 Women, 100 Journeys (see also AP6)**

A number of women from along the SFL submitted stories for the 100W 100J project. A booklet has now been published and can be viewed at:

<https://communityrailancashire.co.uk/news/100-women-100-journeys/>

**6. Local Transport Plan (4)**

This will be covered in the report by Mike Cliffe.

**7. Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)**

Lancashire County Council, in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Council, submitted its 'Bus Service Improvement Plan' to the DfT on the 28<sup>th</sup> October. Full details about the Plan can be found by using the 2 attached links:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/public-transport/national-bus-strategy-bus-back-better-2021/>

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/928075/lancashire-with-blackburn-with-darwen-bus-service-improvement-plan.pdf>

The Plan is an essential part of the National Bus Strategy (Bus Back Better) recently launched by the DfT and Prime Minister.

Blackpool Council has also published its BSIP see link below:

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Parking-roads-and-transport/Documents/Blackpool-Council-Bus-Service-Improvement-Plan-October-2021.pdf>

## **AP2: Funding**

Core funding:

Northern	£28,609
Blackpool Council	£ 3,000
Trans Pennine	£ 5,000
Avanti West Coast	£ 4,235

**Other grants:**

Welcome Back Fund	£20,000 (TF to update meeting)
Avanti Community Rail Fund	
Dick,Kerr Ladies	£18,360 (Preston station)

Community Rail Network

RJR project	£ 6,775 (CRDF)
Shifting Sands	£ 3,000 (CRDF)
Hidden Gems dibond for K&W	£ 370 (Small Grant)
Hidden Gems St Annes	£ 500 (Small Grant)
Lytham to St Annes walk film	£ 1,270 (Small Grant)

### **AP3: Improve Integration**

This has been led by Vernon Smith on behalf of the CRP. A key focus has been responding to the National Bus Strategy and the development of BSIPs by Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council see the links above in API point 7.

### **AP4: Station Developments**

CRL will continue to support the station groups along the line. Below are some of the projects taking place along the South Fylde Line.

#### **Preston**

##### **Dick, Kerr Ladies**

Avanti has agreed funding towards a film the Dick, Kerr Ladies, the women's football team formed in 1917 from workers at the Dick, Kerr factory on Strand Road Preston. The team raised funds for war veterans, around £2m in today's money. However, once the First World War ended and the soldiers returned, the popular women's professional football team was banned in 1921 and it is this anniversary and their achievements that are going to be recognised at a number of events this year. They include a train trip to Manchester Football Museum's new women's football exhibition and a Remembrance Day Service at Preston station between platforms 3 & 4 at 1045 on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November when Dick, Kerr Ladies achievements will be shared and passengers/general public are invited to come along to the service.

There is a call out for relatives and friends of the Dick, Kerr ladies to come forward, memorabilia, photos etc will take place using posters and social media. **If anyone has links to local Preston organisations contact Caroline Holden at [caroline.holden.crl@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.holden.crl@gmail.com).**

##### **Art work at the station**

A meeting is being arranged currently to progress the plans for an art project. This has involved a wide range of partners including Avanti, Network Rail, CRL and CRN with the area identified for this project. CRL are looking to have an approved project firmed up and prepared for submitting 2022/23.

##### **Kirkham & Wesham**

A new station group is in the process of being formed and an application has been submitted to Northern. We look forward to inviting them to future meetings.

There is now a 'Hidden Gems' dibond waiting to be installed at the station. This has been produced by the pupils at Pear Tree School. The proposed location for this is on the redundant and rather forlorn building on platforms 2 & 3. Once up it may be possible to arrange a short event with the school at the station.

##### **Salwick**

A new history poster has now been displayed at the station. The new station group have ideas for further displays at the station which Simon Clarke and others are discussing with them. With thanks to Peter Fitton for his invaluable help in compiling the poster



**The new history poster**

### **Moss Side**

A small ceremony took place at Moss Side to officially unveil the new history poster.



### **St Annes**

There is never a dull moment at St Annes as Tony and the Friends group continue their hard work. There was quite a lot happening at the station during community week with a special event happening on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October. The pictures tell the story.



The wood sculpture at St Annes



Unveiling the St Annes history poster during Community Rail Week

### Squires Gate

Lots took place at Squires Gate during Community Rail Week as the picture below demonstrates.



**Goody bags being handed out  
During Community Rail Week**

Fylde Borough Council continues to progress the CPO for the land to enable the very last bit of the access ramp to be completed.

#### **History posters:**

All the posters can be viewed on the CRL website using this link:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/history-posters/>

For the SFL there are now posters for Salwick, Moss Side, Ansdell & Fairhaven and St Annes with others in the pipeline.

#### **AP5: Timetable Developments**

There is very little changing on the SFL itself but there are plans being developed that may affect the future operation of the Blackpool to Manchester service as part of the **Manchester Recovery Task Force (MRTF)**.

CRL on behalf of the 4 Lancashire CRPs submitted a response to the consultation issued by the MRTF. A report detailing the outcome of the consultation was issued by DfT, Network Rail and TfN in September. The response can be viewed at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/timetable-options-to-improve-rail-performance-in-the-north-of-england?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_source=7750d17e-3dd9-446c-8f8e-726e74d62b19&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/timetable-options-to-improve-rail-performance-in-the-north-of-england?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=7750d17e-3dd9-446c-8f8e-726e74d62b19&utm_content=daily)

Following a considerable amount of political pressure a revised option called Option 3b has been drafted and is likely to be consulted on during November. CRL will respond to the further public consultation.

Mike Cliffe will be able to provide a further update at the meeting.

## **AP6: School, College and University engagement**

This is covered in the attached education report update (already circulated with the meeting agenda etc).

## **AP7: Marketing & Promotion**

### **1. Self-Guide Walks:**

Continuing to promote the three existing leaflets via posters at stations both on and off route and word of mouth. The leaflets are also all available to download on the website at <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/the-south-fylde-line/>

### **2. Explore Lancashire By Rail**

Huckleberry Films are producing an initial series of 4 short films promoting walks from railway stations. One of the films will cover a walk between Lytham and St Annes stations and include part of the St Annes Town Trail.

Two films have already been produced covering walks between Rose Grove station and Padiham in East Lancashire and Burscough junction to Rufford stations on the West Lancashire Line. To view these, use the following links:

#### ***Rose Grove to Padiham along the Padiham Greenway***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYaq8Wisk8E>

#### ***Burscough Junction to Rufford via the Leeds & Liverpool and Rufford Branch canals***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CkGdwUC7KE>

### **3. CRL website statistics**

**Users – 20,955**

**Page Views – 54.425**

#### Top 10 pages

1. Home
2. DalesRail
3. News
4. DalesRail/Timetable
5. Bentham Line
6. News/DalesRail 2021
7. DalesRail/Walks
8. Walks
9. Dalesrail/Fares
10. Clitheroe Line

#### **@crl\_live**

Followers – 1,008

Tweets – 187

Impressions – 264K

### **4. Mini timetables**

The plan is to restart these for the December timetable change. **The timetables rely on local, volunteer distribution so how many should we print?**

## 5. Line guide

As part of the Welcome Back Fund it may be possible to fund the design and printing of a new line guide. A possibility is that to do it in the same format as the one recently launched for the West Lancashire Line. See attached link to view this (oh and by the way why not try out the WLL and some of the lovely places that can be visited?). <https://communityrailancashire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Make-A-Bee-Line.pdf>

Alternatively, it could retain the original A5 booklet format.

In either case the text will need to be checked and re-drafted.

## 6. Community Rail Week 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October

Lots taking place across the Lancashire CRPs including the South Fylde Line. The week was launched at Manchester Piccadilly station with the help of CRL and Bury College see picture below taken from the CRN website.



**CRL's Katie Musgrove and Bury College students join in the Launch of Community Rail Week at Manchester Piccadilly**

Events took place along the South Fylde Line culminating in the unveiling of the new owl sculpture and history poster at St Annes on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October – see AP4 above. A big thank you to everyone who took part including Tony and Barrie.

There is a fuller report on the CRN website:

<https://communityrail.org.uk/community-rail-encourages-the-country-to-go-green-by-train-as-first-community-rail-week-launches/> and in the latest Community Rail News.

**CRN plan to run this again so feedback on what you felt worked well and what could be improved would be welcomed.**