



WEST OF LANCASHIRE LINE CRP Action Plan update 19th January 2022

API: CRP Development

1. Restoring Your Railway (RYR)

Two bids were submitted to round 3 of the RYR Ideas Fund for a new station at Midge Hall and the restoration of the Burscough Curves. Unfortunately, neither was successful when the Government announced the successful applications. It is unlikely there will be any further bidding rounds.

2. Accreditation

The re-accreditation meeting took place on the 13th October, 2021 and I delighted to report that CRL and the 4 Lancashire CRPs have been successfully re-accredited for a further year. For more details go to:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/reaccreditation-success-for-2021-22/>

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

The CRP regularly updates ComREG on its activities. 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. Both Richard Watts and Marion Atkinson are members of ComREG. Reports about the CRP activities are sent to Dawn McGough, Community Rail Cumbria, who co-ordinates these for the West Area CRPs.

ComREG met on the 12th January 2022 a verbal report will be given.

4. 2022 Action Plan and CRP Activity Plan

Attached is the draft 2022 CRP Activity Plan and 2022 Action Plan. This year all the projects being taken forward by the 4 Lancashire CRPs are included and replaces the tables previously contained in the Action Plan.

5. Education update

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

Locally CRL continues to work with Burscough St John's RC Primary School and is working on a new project with Rufford CE Primary School known as Rufford Station to Mere Sands Wood.

We are also looking to develop a project with a primary school in Croston.

6. Local Transport Plan (4)

This is covered in the report from Mike Cliffe.

AP2: Funding

Core funding 2021/22:

The West of Lancashire CRP received contributions to its core funding from:

Source	Amount £
Northern	28759
Merseytravel	10000
Trans Pennine	2500
Avanti (pro rata)	4238
Total	45497

Other income

The table shows the projects and grants received for the 2021/22 year.

Project	Budget £	Grant	Outturn	Notes
BCJ Positive Train of Thought	£6000	£2850 CRDF	£5700	Completed
Rufford to Burscough Canal walk film	£1270	£635 CRN Small Grant	£1270	Completed Part of the Explore Lancashire by Rail film series
"Make A Bee Line' line guide & posters	£1600	£800 CRDF	£1600	Completed
Burscough Jct Tool Box	£660	£660 CRN Small Grant	£660	Completed – made from recycled plastic
Rufford to Mere Sands Wood	£7085	£3542 CRDF	Expected £7085	Expected completion March 2022
Mini TTs Dec 2021	£419		£419	
Dick, Kerr Ladies Film project (Preston Stn)	£8360	£8360 Avanti CR grant	Expected £8359	Total budget for this was £18360
Preston station 3C & 4C project	£9950	£9950 Avanti CR grant	Expected £9950	Awaiting grant approval by Avanti
Totals	£35344	£26797	£35043	

Notes:

CR Community Rail
 CRDF Community Rail Development Fund
 CRN Community Rail Network

The table does not show the costs of maintaining the branded boards and for some of the posters displayed in them.

AP3: Timetable developments

Manchester Recovery Task Force

CRL and the 4 Lancashire CRPs submitted a response to the MRTF consultation on the proposed timetables for the December 2022. Copies of this can be forwarded on request.

Key points:

Preston – Ormskirk

- The service is linked to the Preston – Colne service in both directions.
- No change to service frequency which remains hourly but with earlier departures from Preston and Ormskirk.
- Last train at 2235 would miss Manchester connection so it has been suggested the service is retimed to 2238.

(Manchester) Wigan - Southport

- Two trains per hour operate between Southport and Manchester with one going to Manchester Victoria and Stalybridge and the other to Manchester Oxford Road.
- The latter does not fully meet the original reason for the reintroduction of services to south Manchester and we have asked that urgent consideration is given to extending the service to Manchester Piccadilly as soon as possible.
- Certain peak only trains between Southport and Manchester have not been reintroduced.
- The Sunday service remains as now linked to the Blackburn via Todmorden Curve service.

Mini timetables

The CRP has also reintroduced its mini timetable for the Preston to Ormskirk line (see also AP5) – anyone wanting some for local distribution please contact Richard Watts on communityraillancashire1@gmail.com

Many thanks to the volunteers who help to distribute the mini timetables – we can't do it without your help.

COVID timetable changes

Northern has announced some temporary changes to its timetables from the 4th January which will result in some 2 hour gaps on the Preston – Ormskirk line. For more details go to:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/service-changes-update/>

AP4: Station & other developments

Preston

Platforms 3C & 4C

As you see from AP3 the Ormskirk service will be permanently linked to the Colne service from December 2022. Northern has confirmed that the service will continue to use platforms 3C & 4C at least until HS2 remodelling of platforms 3 & 4 take out the 2 bays. To improve the environment at this 'lonely' part of the station CRL & Lancashire CC have worked on an application to the Avanti Community Rail fund for the provision of seats, planters and information panels. At the time of writing this report the application to Avanti had been submitted and a decision awaited.

Artwork Update:

A small-scale postcard project is being undertaken by a Supported Internship Student group that works out of County Hall, Preston. A larger project is also being developed to display artwork on Platform 7.

Dick, Kerr Ladies

Work continues on the 'Granny' film to celebrate the Dick, Kerr Ladies. Thanks to Avanti for allowing the film crew to film on the train.

Preston to Ormskirk Line:

Croston

Friends of Croston station

This active group continue to make a very positive impact on the station, including the disused platform.

Rufford

A project involving Rufford CE Primary School and Mere Sands Wood is being developed by Caroline Holden and Shahiesta Raja. Subject to Covid restrictions the project is due to start early in 2022 and will involve local artist Karen Allerton. The project has been awarded a CRDF grant (see above).

Burscough Junction

Burscough Junction used and disused platforms

As previously reported Burscough St John's RC Primary school has adopted the disused platform at Burscough Junction working under a licence from Network Rail which is held by Community Rail Lancashire. Pupils from the school regularly visit the station to look after their plants, tidy up and generally make sure the area is maintained to a high standard.

On the used platform the Friends of Burscough Stations look after the planters and generally keep the area tidy.

Community Rail Week 18th to 24th October

A special event took place at Burscough Junction station to mark the start of the first Community Rail Week on **Monday 18th October**. The Burscough event:

- Launched the new promotional 'Make A Bee Line for the West Lancashire Line' leaflet and poster;
- Saw pupils from St John's RC Primary School take the train to Rufford to walk back to school along the Rufford Branch and Leeds & Liverpool canals recently featured in a film produced by the partnership (see AP 5 – Explore Lancashire By Rail); and
- Celebrate the adoption of the disused platform by St John's.



(L) Launching the event at Burscough Junction and (R) on the wet walk back to school from Rufford along the canal.

A film to mark the event can be viewed using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFjdVp0-eNQ>

Thanks to the many volunteers who are helping to distribute the 'Make A Bee Line' line guide.

Wigan Wallgate to Southport line

Burscough Bridge

A history poster is being written by CRP member Phil Benzie. We hope to be able to complete this by the end of the year.

AP5 Marketing & Promotion:

Explore Lancashire By Rail

This is the name being given to a series of mini films describing easy walks that can be reached using our local lines. There are currently four films available to watch, see Collectors Cornet for links, they show:

- a walk from Rose Grove along the Padiham Greenway,
- a walk from Burscough Junction to Rufford along the Leeds & Liverpool and Rufford Branch canals,
- a linear walk from Lytham to St Anne's, and
- the launch of Community Rail Week at Burscough Junction.

Other films in the pipeline include a walk from Darwen station to Darwen Tower

Make a Bee Line for the West Lancashire Line

This is the title of the new leaflet and poster launched on the 13th October at the start of Community Rail Week at Burscough Junction station.

The leaflet highlights attractions along the line from Preston to Liverpool with ideas for short or longer days out. If you would like to help distribute these contact Richard Watts at communityrailancashire1@gmail.com or Caroline Holden at caroline.holden.crl@gmail.com. Simon Clarke has toured the area installing the posters in CRL's branded boards.

Mini timetables

See above a new mini timetable will be produced to coincide with the start of the December timetable.

CRL website statistics (see appendix A)

CRL Website Statistics Year 2021

Users 26,332

Visits 34,559

Page views 66,739

Top Ten+

1. Home page
2. DalesRail
3. Bentham Line
4. News
5. DalesRail Timetable
6. News/DalesRail 2021
7. DalesRail Walks
8. Walks
9. Clitheroe Line
10. DalesRail Fares
11. Events
12. East Lancs Line
19. West of Lancs Lines

Twitter

Followers 1,049

Tweets 268

Winter Warmers:

Working with Love to Ride CRL has been helping with promoting cycling across the county by displaying posters in its branded boards that encourage people to get involved and with a chance of winning some interesting prizes.

AP6: School, college, university & apprentice engagement

This is covered in the attached education update report.

COMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS

Thursday 9th December, 2021 was a good night for CRL and the 4 Lancashire CRPs with the following awards achieved:

- First prize in the Involving Children and Young People category for: the Community Rail Education Networks 'Backtrack – create it, share it, save lives' anti trespass campaign.
- First prize in the Best Community Engagement project category for '100 Women 100 Journeys'
- Second prize in the Involving Diverse Groups category for the 'Bonded Together with a Prayer Bead' project.
- Joint third prize in the Community Creative projects and Station Arts category for 'Along the Line' (Ramsgreave & Wilpshire station).

For full details of all the entries click on the link below:

<https://communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-Awards-Winners-Booklet-FINAL-FOR-WEB.pdf>

COLLECTORS CORNER

Have you read our Best Practice papers? If not click here <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/best-practice/> for:

Memorable Journeys – Accrington

Along the Line – Ramsgreave & Wilpshire

Back on Track - Darwen

'A Positive Train of Thought' – Burscough Junction and Burscough St Johns RC Primary School.

Look out for more Best Practice papers as we move into 2022.

Have you watched the Let's Connect films produced by Huckleberry Films? If not click here:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lets-connect/>

They cover projects funded by Connect East Lancashire at Brierfield, Accrington and Ramsgreave & Wilpshire stations.

Other films to watch:

East Lancashire

A walk along the Padiham Greenway

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/padiham-greenway/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvDSEWolil8>

West Lancashire

A walk from Burscough Jct to Rufford via the Leeds & Liverpool and Rufford Branch canals

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

Launching Community Rail Week at Burscough Junction 18th October 2021 including a wet walk from Rufford station back to school along the Rufford Branch and Leeds & Liverpool canals. To watch click on the line below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFjdVp0-eNQ>

South Fylde

Take a look at the latest film to help you 'Explore Lancashire By Rail'. This is a linear walk between Lytham and St Annes stations:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC7CtK2ZJJ0>

The DalesRail taster can be seen on the homepage of www.dalesrail.com

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/dalesrail/>

The Virtual DalesRail call to action film:

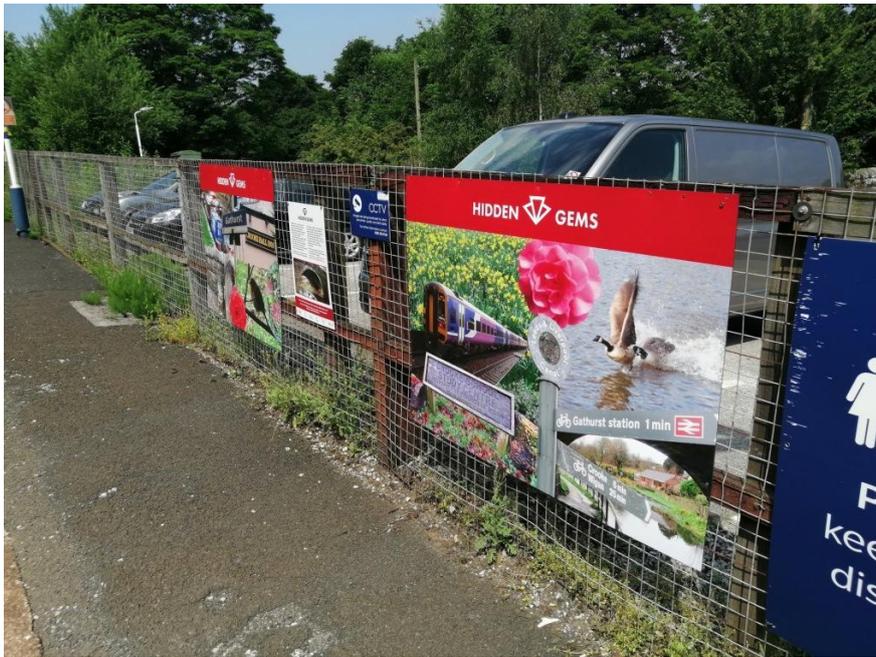
<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/tales-from-dalesrail/>

West Lancashire Audio Tapes

The audio files are from a project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund around ten years ago for The Lancashire Society called 'The Noise We Mek' which focused on the way people speak around Lancashire. The files remain the copyright of the Lancashire Society and may not be used without permission.

Click on the link below to find out more and to listen to the tapes:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/audio-files/>



Hidden Gems boarders at Gathurst Station – pity about the fence



Appendix A

Website performance dashboard

1 Jan 2021 - 31 Dec 2021

Some data in this report may have been removed when a threshold was applied. [Learn more](#)

All Users
100.00% Sessions

Users

26,332
% of Total: 100.00% (26,332)



New Users

26,189
% of Total: 100.00% (26,189)



How many visits this year

34,559
% of Total: 100.00% (34,559)

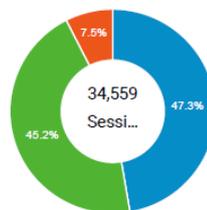


Which City did they come from

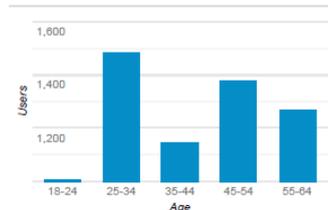
City	Sessions	Pages/Session
London	2,819	1.72
Blackburn	2,572	2.48
Preston	1,911	2.66
Manchester	1,713	2.08
Leeds	819	1.78
Shanghai	665	1.01
Liverpool	656	1.71
Lytham St Annes	619	2.50
Blackpool	605	2.27
Bolton	551	2.03

Desktop or mobile

mobile desktop tablet



Age of visitors



Where did they come from

Source/Medium	Users	Avg. Session Duration
google / organic	15,876	00:01:25
(direct) / (none)	4,936	00:01:29
m.facebook.com / referral	1,500	00:00:36
baidu / organic	805	00:00:01
bing / organic	684	00:02:26
settle-carlisle.co.uk / referral	435	00:01:32
t.co / referral	359	00:01:12
traffic24.xyz / referral	343	00:01:04
lm.facebook.com / referral	328	00:01:29
bbc.co.uk / referral	215	00:01:41

Most popular news

Page Title	Unique Page Views	Avg. Time on Page
News Community Rail Lancashire	2,652	00:00:21
DalesRail 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	1,491	00:02:36
Skelmersdale To Become Rail Linked Again Community Rail Lancashire	617	00:09:31
Class 769 Driver Training Community Rail Lancashire	374	00:02:11
The Bentham Line – A Public Consultation Community Rail Lancashire	373	00:04:52
Restoring Your Railway – Have Your Say Community Rail Lancashire	204	00:01:59
Rivington Bus Helps Economy Recovery Community Rail Lancashire	196	00:03:26
Restoring Your Railway – Clitheroe To Hellifield Community Rail Lancashire	176	00:03:17
Tales From DalesRail – Graham Nuttall Remembered Community Rail Lancashire	149	00:02:22
Success At The Community Rail Awards 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	146	00:01:27

Top 10 most popular pages

Page	Page Views	Unique Page Views
/	8,494	5,792
/lines/dalesrail/	6,313	4,356
/lines/bentham-line/	2,867	2,277
/news/	2,666	1,895
/dalesrail-timetable/	2,298	1,864
/news/dalesrail-2021/	1,678	1,240
/dalesrail-walks/	1,259	1,041
/walks/	1,143	796
/lines/clitheroe-line/	964	796
/dalesrail-fares/	905	762