



## **SOUTH FYLDE LINE CRP Action Plan update February 2022**

### **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 forward by Fylde Borough Council (FBC) with Andrew Loynd in the lead. A project steering group was formed comprising representatives from Lancashire County Council, Fylde Borough Council, Blackpool Council, CRL, Northern, Network Rail and DfT.

The first stage in the RYR process is the production of a SOBC (Strategic Outline Business Case) and this was completed and sent to the DfT before Christmas 2021 see news item for more details and a link to the Executive Summary of the SOBC.

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/south-fylde-line-restoring-your-rail-report-submitted/>

A public consultation formed part of the development of the SOBC and in all 255 people responded to this opportunity. A big thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts about the line and its future.

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 also evaluate other alternatives as well including tram-train and conversion to light rail.

#### **2. Accreditation**

The re-accreditation meeting took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 and I am 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/>

and

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/full-steam-ahead-for-the-south-fylde-line-community-rail-partnership/>

#### **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)

ComREG met on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 a verbal report will be given. The next meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup> March when there will be a call for reports from the CRP – Tony a date for your diary.

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

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

**5. 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>

**6. Manchester Recovery Task Force**

This is covered in AP5 timetable developments.

**AP2: Funding****Core funding 2021/22:**

The SFL CRP received contributions to its core funding from:

Source	Amount £
Northern	28609
Trans Pennine	5000
Avanti (pro rata)	4235
Blackpool Council	3000
<b>Total</b>	<b>40844</b>

**Other income and projects**

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

Project	Budget £	Grant £	Outturn £	Notes
Dick, Kerr Ladies Film Project Preston Station	8360	8360 Avanti CR Grant	8360	
Preston Station Platforms 3C & 4C	10945	9950 Avanti CR Grant	Expected 995	Approval awaited from Avanti
Restoring Your Railway (SOBC)	60193	6019 CRDF	60193	Other contributions from DfT, LCC, Blackpool Council, Fylde BC
Mini timetables Dec 2021	478	478	478	
Lytham to St Anne's Explore Lancashire By Rail	1270	1270	1270	Completed
Shifting Sands	6000	2500 CRDF	6,000	Other funding from CRL & Fylde BC
Hidden Gems at Kirkham	350	350 CRN small grant	350	
Hidden gems at St Anne's	500	500 Grant from St Anne's TC	500	
Welcome Back Fund (ERDF)	20000	20000	20000	Projects being agreed with Fylde BC
<b>Totals</b>	<b>108096</b>	<b>49427</b>	<b>108096</b>	

**Notes:**

- CR Community Rail
- CRDF Community Rail Development Fund
- CRN Community Rail Network
- ERDF European Regional Development Fund
- SOBC Strategic Outline Business Case

### **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 5.

### **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**

##### **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.

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/remembering-a-forgotten-womens-football-team/>

##### **NW In Bloom – It's Your Neighbourhood**

The hard work of the many station volunteers along the South Fylde Line was recognised in the recent NW In Bloom awards see news item below:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/south-fylde-stations-clean-up-at-awards/>



**Level 5 (Outstanding) Awards were won by Lytham, Ansdell & Fairhaven and St Anne's and a Level 3 Award (Advancing) was won by Squires Gate.**

Well done to all the volunteers this is a great recognition of your hard work.

## **Kirkham & Wesham**

A new station group has been formed known as 'Grow Kirkham & Wesham' station and to find out more click on the link below:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/growing-friendships-at-kirkham-wesham-station/>

There is 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.

## **St Annes**

### **The Tony Award:**

Tony won the '2021 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Britain in Bloom NW' for his involvement and enthusiasm in supporting volunteers at stations along the South Fylde Line. For the full story click on the link below:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/the-tony-award/>



## **Squires Gate**

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 including Lytham.

## **AP5: Timetable Developments**

### **Manchester Recovery Task Force (MRTF) – consultation on the December 2022 timetables.**

At the last meeting it was anticipated that a consultation would take place on revised plans to improve the reliability of services, especially those using the Castlefield Corridor in Manchester. A public consultation on draft timetables for December 2022 was undertaken in the weeks leading up to Christmas. CRL submitted a response to this on behalf of the 4 Lancashire CRPs which can be made available to CRP members on request to Richard Watts.

The proposed changes affect all services including those on the so called 'Lancashire Triangle' i.e. Preston to Colne, Ormskirk and Blackpool South. The proposed changes see the Preston to Blackpool South service operated as a stand-alone service on Mondays to Saturdays. The Sunday service is hourly with two hourly extensions to Colne. On weekdays trains leave Blackpool South at xx30 and from Preston at xx49 past each hour ie 14 minutes later than now.

Northern has confirmed that the hourly Sunday service will be reintroduced from the May timetable change.

## **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/> A further walk leaflet is being prepared for the route between Lytham and St Anne's and will complement the Explore Lancashire By Rail film,

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

Huckleberry Films are producing an initial series of 4 short films promoting walks from railway stations. Three films have been produced so far covering walks between Lytham and St Anne's on the South Fylde Line, 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: a fourth film will show case a walk around the reservoirs at Entwistle on the Clitheroe Line.

#### **Lytham to St Anne's**

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

#### **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. Community Rail Week 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October saw the start of the first national Community Rail Week organised by the Community Rail Network. Events have taken place across Lancashire. In Lancashire CRL joined the Community Rail Network at Manchester Piccadilly with a group of SEND pupils from Bury College for the launch of the week. Local events took place at Burscough Junction on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and at St Annes and along the South Fylde Line throughout the week. A special live meeting of the Education Network took place in Newcastle on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October. An event planned with Padiham Green CE Primary School had to be postponed due to the awful weather on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

For full details of what took place on the SFL click on the link below:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/community-rail-week-on-the-south-fylde-line/>

The CRN is likely to plan a further Community rail Week during 2022 with the event likely to take place possibly in May. Look out for further details but start getting ideas together.

#### 4. CRL website statistics (see appendix A)

<b>Users</b>	26,332
<b>Visits</b>	34,559
<b>Page views</b>	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

<b>Followers</b>	<b>1,049</b>
<b>Tweets</b>	<b>268</b>

#### 5. Mini timetables

Mini timetables have been produced for the December 2021 timetable changes for the:

- Ribble Valley Line – Manchester – Clitheroe;
- Blackburn to Manchester/Kirkby - Todmorden curve service along with timetable posters;
- Preston – Ormskirk; and
- **The South Fylde Line - Preston – Blackpool South.**

Grateful thanks to the volunteers who help distribute the timetables.

#### 6. 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://communityraillancashire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Make-A-Bee-Line.pdf>

## 7. Shifting Sands

North West based artist Nicky Thompson has unveiled a new poster series in the style of the striking railway posters designed and issued in the 1920s and 30s. For more information about this click on the links below:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/shifting-sands-grant-success/>

<https://www.blackpoolsocial.club/34395-shifting-sands-railway-poster/>

## COMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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/>

**Latest:** Working with Community Groups in East Lancashire  
Positive Train of Thought – Burscough Junction  
Memorable Journeys – Accrington  
Along the Line – Ramsgreave & Wilpshire  
Back on Track - Darwen

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

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

Other films to watch:

Padiham Greenway

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Yaq8VWisk8E> (avoids the closed bridge over the River Calder)

Rufford to Burscough Junction along the Leeds and Liverpool & Rufford Branch canals:

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

The DalesRail taster can be seen on the homepage of [www.dalesrail.com](http://www.dalesrail.com)

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

The Virtual DalesRail call to action film:

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

By the way its not too late to send in your favourite story, picture or anecdote about DalesRail to

[communityraillancashire1@gmail.com](mailto:communityraillancashire1@gmail.com)

## 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/>

# 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)

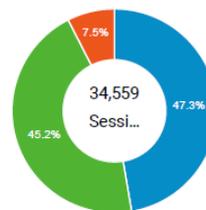


### Which City did they come from

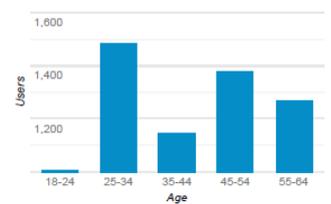
City	Sessions	Pages/Session
London	2,819	1.72
Blackburn	2,572	2.48
Preston	1,911	2.66
Manchester	1,713	2.08
Leeds	819	1.78
Shanghai	665	1.01
Liverpool	656	1.71
Lytham St Annes	619	2.50
Blackpool	605	2.27
Bolton	551	2.03

### Desktop or mobile

mobile desktop tablet



### Age of visitors



### Where did they come from

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