



WEST OF LANCASHIRE LINE CRP

Action Plan update

11th October 2022

API: CRP Development

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

The West of Lancashire CRP 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. 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. The last meeting was held on the 24th August and the next meeting is scheduled for the 19th October.

The meeting on the 24th August covered, amongst many other things, the following:

1. Stations as a Place – members received an in-depth presentation from Stephen Bond about Northern's vision for stations. The project is at an early stage in its development but seeks to place stations at the heart of their communities and to be a catalyst for growth.
2. Two seed corn applications were received one from the Bishop Line CRP for 'New Writing North' and the other from Community Rail Lancashire for Let's Go (Evaluation). Both applications were approved.
3. Under AOB Richard Watts raised the issue of the new CRL '4 Year Strategic Education Plan' and sought the involvement of ComREG in its development. For example, what areas do you want to see covered by the Plan and how would you like to see the plan presented.
4. Also under AOB the issue of Anti-Social Behaviour was raised. It had been noted that many CRPs and station groups had noticed an increase in ASB. It was noted that Karen Hornby, the new CRO for the Calder Valley CRP, has formed a group to look into this issue and to identify actions that CRPs, station groups can take and that a seed corn bid is being developed with Community Rail Cumbria to help fund a person to co-ordinate and work with CRPs etc to find ways to combat ASB.

The next meeting of ComREG will include regional reports so the WofLCRP will need to submit this to Dawn McGough. **(Stephen and Richard to note!)**

Full details about the meeting can be forwarded to anyone wanting to find out more. Just email Richard Watts at richard.watts.crl@gmail.com . If you have any issues you want raising at the next meeting again email them to Richard Watts.

2. DfT Afternoon Tea event London 28th September 2022

CRL was represented by Richard Watts, Karen Bennett and Shahiasta Raja at this event. Shahiasta gave a presentation on her work with Syrian and Afghan refugee groups in East Lancashire and Manchester. A best practice report has been produced and can be forwarded to anyone interested in this topic.

3. Community Rail Awards 6th October 2022

The Community Rail Awards took place on Thursday 6th October in Manchester. Two projects covering the West of Lancashire CRP were shortlisted namely:

Rufford Station to Mere Sands Wood under Community Creative Projects & Station Arts;
and

Explore Lancashire by Rail under Most Effective Communications Campaign, which includes the walk between Rufford Station and Burscough Junction/Bridge along the Rufford and Leeds Liverpool Canals.

4. Accreditation

The Accreditation meeting for CRL and the West of Lancashire CRP took place on Monday 3rd October and was attended amongst others by Stephen Benge, Richard Watts, Caroline Holden and Simon Clarke.



Accreditation meeting taking place at Accrington Eco Station

AP2: Funding

Core funding 2022/23:

The West of Lancashire CRP has so far received core funding from:

Source	Amount £
Northern	31,003
Merseytravel	10,000
Trans Pennine	1,137
Avanti	3,580
Total	45,720

Please note some numbers have been rounded up.

Other income

The table shows the projects and grants received for the 2022/23 year.

Project	Budget £	Grant £	Outturn £	Notes
Preston station 3c & 4c	9,950	9,950 Avanti Community Rail fund	9,950	In progress
Rufford Station to Mere Sands Wood	7,085	3,542 CRDF	7,085	Completed
Croston with Trinity St Michael's	5,706	2,058 CRDF 2,058 Seed Corn		In progress
Mini timetables May 2022	422		422	Completed
Mini timetables December 2022	450			In progress
Hidden Gems: Liverpool to Southport	2,415	2,415 CRDF		
Total				

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

I. Manchester Recovery Task Force

As reported at the last meeting CRL responded to the consultation by the MRTF to the proposed December 2022 timetables. The December timetables have now been finalised and can be viewed on Real Time Trains (amongst other locations).

Key changes:

1. The Preston to Ormskirk services becomes hourly again without gaps but the times are amended. In the consultation timetables departures from Preston were at xx10 past the hour and from Ormskirk at xx 46 past the hour. It also appears that the service is linked with the Colne service in both directions which may mean it will be making greater use of platforms 3c & 4c. The Preston to Blackpool Sth service become standalone so breaking the Lancashire Triangle.
2. The Manchester to Southport service remains broadly 2 trains per hour with one service to Oxford Rd and the other to Manchester Victoria.

Mini timetables

The CRP will be producing a mini timetable for the December timetable change for the Preston to Ormskirk line (see also AP6) – anyone wanting some for local distribution please contact Richard Watts on richard.watts.crl@gmail.com.

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

AP5: Station & other developments

Preston

Route Crime/ Safety Awareness Event

This event took place on Thursday, August 25th 1 – 4pm and was supported by Community Rail Lancashire. The new Arlo rail safety books were distributed during the event to passengers and was a great event for connecting to passengers and promoting rail safety in all its facets.

Preston Station: Improvements to Facilities at Platform 3c & 4c

The project continues to be progressed through the necessary stages for installation to take place. Avanti West Coast have identified a project manager and, Lancashire County Council and CRL continue to work through the rail industry approvals. Contractors have produced the necessary documents (risk assessments/ method statements) to support the installation for when clearance is given.

Preston Station School project anticipated

Submission of a grant application to Avanti West Coast and CRNF for this project is being prepared. CRL had a meeting today, 28 September with Network Rail to discuss the location for the artwork, and there is general approval for this. Discussion of whom would be most suitable to install the Dibond was discussed, and Caroline Holden is to investigate with Avanti, Danielle Lahan will do so for Network Rail. Avanti's Joanne Buckley has connected CRL with the contact to support with the organisation of careers talks/ visits which will be part of this project - 'Steam to Green – Tracking Careers'.

Dick, Kerr Ladies (DKL)

- There has been much positive feedback from the Dick, Kerr Ladies showcase that took place on 3rd August 2022 which includes the following from a football and non-football organisation that connected with the event through the 'call-out poster' at Preston Station:
 - John Pluckwell, Veterans Project Officer of Burnley FC said of the event *"On behalf of Daniella, myself and the veterans in attendance on Wednesday, a massive thank you for an outstanding event. From our initial meeting to the time we left, we were felt most welcome and very much included in the event. The dancing was spectacular, I don't know how they remember so many moves and dancing over such a long period must be exhausting! The video was excellent and sparked a great deal of debate and reflection from us all."*
 - Patricia Harrison, Chair of Friends of Winckley Square said, *"It was a pleasure to meet you and to be there yesterday (3rd Aug). We didn't know quite what to expect and we were blown away with the quality of what we saw. I won't list the 'highs', it was all excellent!"*



- The Blackburn Rovers Remember took a trip to the National Football Museum on 31st August with Katie Douglas by train which was very well received. Further trips are being discussed with other organisations which have been connected through this project. (see a photo below)
- CRL were invited by Avanti to present the Dick, Kerr Ladies project at their conference that took place on 20th September 2022 and was positively received.
- CRL are awaiting details of the Train Naming from Avanti West Coast. CRL would like to support the train naming ceremony to maximize this special event to connect with local and football communities. We would like the opportunity to invite people who were involved in the showcase to the train naming and expand the reach of Preston Station to more local organisations. To do this, sufficient time would be required for CRL to arrange representation, to submit and hopefully gain approval for a grant application to Avanti to support this element of the project, along with hopefully enabling About Time Dance Company to perform their Dick, Kerr Ladies dance – Quite Unfit for Women at the ceremony at the station following the success at the showcase in August.
- This project has connected CRL with new Preston contacts and continues to keep contact with them. Arlo's adventures – a new rail safety book has been shared with our Preston organisations for distribution to the young people they work.

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.

Croston Geocache

Trinity and St Michael's CE and Methodist Primary School in Croston are working on the creation of a 'new' Croston Geocache Adventure Trail with the support of community artist, Karen Allerton. By collaborating with CRL and with funding from Northern and CRDF this will be a fun way to promote a visit to Croston by train to then experience the Croston Cache trail. The artwork has been produced by Year 3 and 4's pupils and is in the process of being finalised for a launch currently planned for 21st October (all being well). The Geocache trail will start at the station and will improve the entrance onto the platform area, with a display of the geocache map on the cycle shelter.

To find out more about click this link: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/croston-geocache-trail/>

Rufford

Rufford Station to Mere Sands Wood:

As mentioned above the project was launched on the 22nd April at Rufford Station to an invited audience as well as the excited young artists for the school! A news item about this can be viewed by clicking this link: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/rufford-to-mere-sands-wood-walks-leaflet-launched/>. This also includes a link to the very attractive leaflet.

Anyone wanting copies of the leaflet should contact either Richard Watts or Caroline Holden.

Burscough Junction

The HM Prison and Probation Service were approached recently to investigate the possibility of Payback being able to keep the vegetation clear on the disused platform as this would allow St John's RC Primary School of Burscough to concentrate on tending to the flower beds and planters. On 27Sept Caroline Holden met with Simon Hummer, the UPW Operations Manager in Central Lancashire and Colin Bardshaw at the station to review the location and as a result the service, CRL and Network Rail are working towards this commencing in November 2022 on Tuesdays, with the school delighted to have this support.

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

Wigan Wallgate to Southport line

Burscough Bridge

A history poster is being written by CRP member Phil Benzie.

The CRP is looking at how it can promote the footpath link from Burscough Bridge (not forgetting Burscough Junction) to Martin Mere. Caroline Holden has met with Martin Mere about the film project which is likely to be done during summer 2023.

AP6 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 five 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,
- a circular walk around Turton & Entwistle and Wayoh Reservoirs and
- the launch of Community Rail Week 2021 at Burscough Junction.

Other films in the pipeline include a walk from Darwen station to Darwen Tower and the West Pennine Moors and a walk from Burscough stations to Martin Mere.

Full details of all the films can be viewed here:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lancashire-by-rail/>

CRL has been working with ICG Strategic Marketing Agency to help promote the films and Simon Clarke has become a 'regular' on the programme hosted by Maria Felix Vax. Simon recently recorded the canal walk from Burscough to Rufford.



Make a Bee Line for the West Lancashire Line

This is the title of the new leaflet and poster launched on the 13th October 2021 at the start of last years 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 Richard.watts.crl@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.

To find out more about the '**Make A Bee Line**' campaign and to download the leaflet click on the following link: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/make-a-beeline-for-the-west-lancashire-line/>

Mini timetables

Mini timetables for the May timetable change have been produced for the Preston to Ormskirk line and have been distributed by local volunteers.

AP7: CRL website update: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/>

Website Statistics – 3rd Quarter 2022

Twitter

Tweets 48

Impressions 28,844

Profile visits 8,721

Website

Users 7,223

Visits 9,825

Pages 20,213

Top 10

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

Full details in appendix I.

AP8 & 9: School, college, university & apprentice engagement & Diversity and Inclusion

This is covered in the attached education update report.

COLLECTORS CORNER

Have you read our Best Practice papers? If not click here

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/best-practice/>

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/>

Explore Lancashire By Rail - a series of films illustrating great walks from stations across Lancashire. To view them all click on the link below:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lancashire-by-rail/>

Padiham Greenway

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYaq8Wisk8E> (avoids the closed bridge over the River Calder)

Entwistle Reservoir Walk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZlajo2idXA>

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

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

Lytham to St Anne's linear walk

<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/>

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

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/>

Coming soon:

The Clitheroe Line walk from Darwen Station to Darwen Tower and the West Pennine Moors.

Appendix 1: web site statistics:

Website performance dashboard

1 Jul 2021 - 30 Sept 2021

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

All Users
100.00% Sessions

Users

7,223

% of Total: 100.00% (7,223)



New Users

6,937

% of Total: 100.00% (6,937)



How many visits this year

9,825

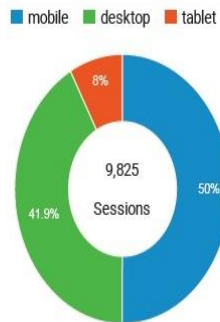
% of Total: 100.00% (9,825)



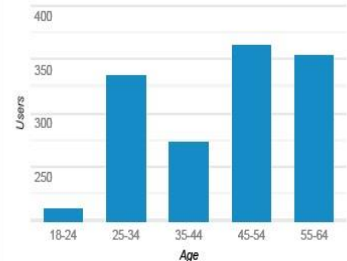
Which City did they come from

City	Sessions	Pages/Session
London	917	1.81
Blackburn	881	2.56
Preston	576	2.68
Manchester	490	1.91
Liverpool	229	1.99
Leeds	208	2.16
Blackpool	196	2.10
Lytham St Annes	190	2.39
Glasgow	189	1.72
Shanghai	188	1.01

Desktop or mobile



Age of visitors



Where did they come from

Source/Medium	Users	Avg. Session Duration
google / organic	3,901	00:01:45
(direct) / (none)	1,473	00:01:44
traffic24.xyz / referral	343	00:01:04
m.facebook.com / referral	273	00:00:20
baidu / organic	242	00:00:00
bbc.co.uk / referral	215	00:01:41
bing / organic	215	00:02:13
settle-carlisle.co.uk / referral	184	00:01:57
t.co / referral	118	00:01:06
wnoxforum.co.uk / referral	68	00:00:33

Most popular news

Page Title	Unique Page Views	Avg. Time on Page
News Community Rail Lancashire	877	00:00:27
DalesRail 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	505	00:02:17
Skelmersdale To Become Rail Linked Again Community Rail Lancashire	156	00:06:40
DalesRail Sunday 12 September 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	118	00:01:59
DalesRail Sunday 4 July 2021 Cancelled Community Rail Lancashire	116	00:00:46
Sunday 8 August Sees DalesRail Cancelled Again Community Rail Lancashire	106	00:00:49
Make A Bee Line For The West Lancashire Line Community Rail Lancashire	95	00:02:32
DalesRail Sunday 15 August 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	94	00:01:24
DalesRail Sunday 25 July 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	87	00:01:42
DalesRail Sunday 1 August 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	80	00:01:18

Top 10 most popular pages

Page	Page Views	Unique Page Views
/lines/dalesrail/	3,027	2,126
/	2,672	1,690
/news/	988	719
/lines/bentham-line/	979	771
/dalesrail-timetables/	890	764
/news/dalesrail-2021/	680	505
/dalesrail-walks/	488	418
/dalesrail-fares/	481	406
/walks/	366	250
/lines/clitheroe-line/	335	280