

West of Lancashire CRP Activity Plan Report 12th October, 2023



Key Updates:

The **national ticket office closure proposals**: Three ticket offices have been identified for closure namely Parbold, Preston and Wigan North Western with Wigan Wallgate remaining open. Ormskirk and Southport are unaffected by these proposals.. Impacts on equality, equity and disability were highlighted and have fed into consultation responses compiled by Community Rail Lancashire and Lancashire County Council. Encouragement was also given for Rail User Groups, Friends of Stations and District Councils to also reply to the Transport Focus consultation. It is understood that over 680,000 responses were made – clearly demonstrating the need for further thought about this issue. Concurrently there was also a petition which gained 100,000 signatures and resulted in a parliamentary debate.

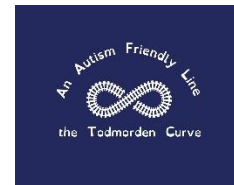
I can forward the responses made by CRL to both the Northern and Avanti West Coast consultations.

ComREG (Northern Community Rail Executive Group): the last meeting took place on the 13th September 2023 at which regional updates were given. DDawn McGough, Community Rail Cumbria, compiles the report for the west area and thanks to Stephen for his input to this.

The **Community Rail Events Guide** has been updated to include a wider range of events that can be reached by train see: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/events/>

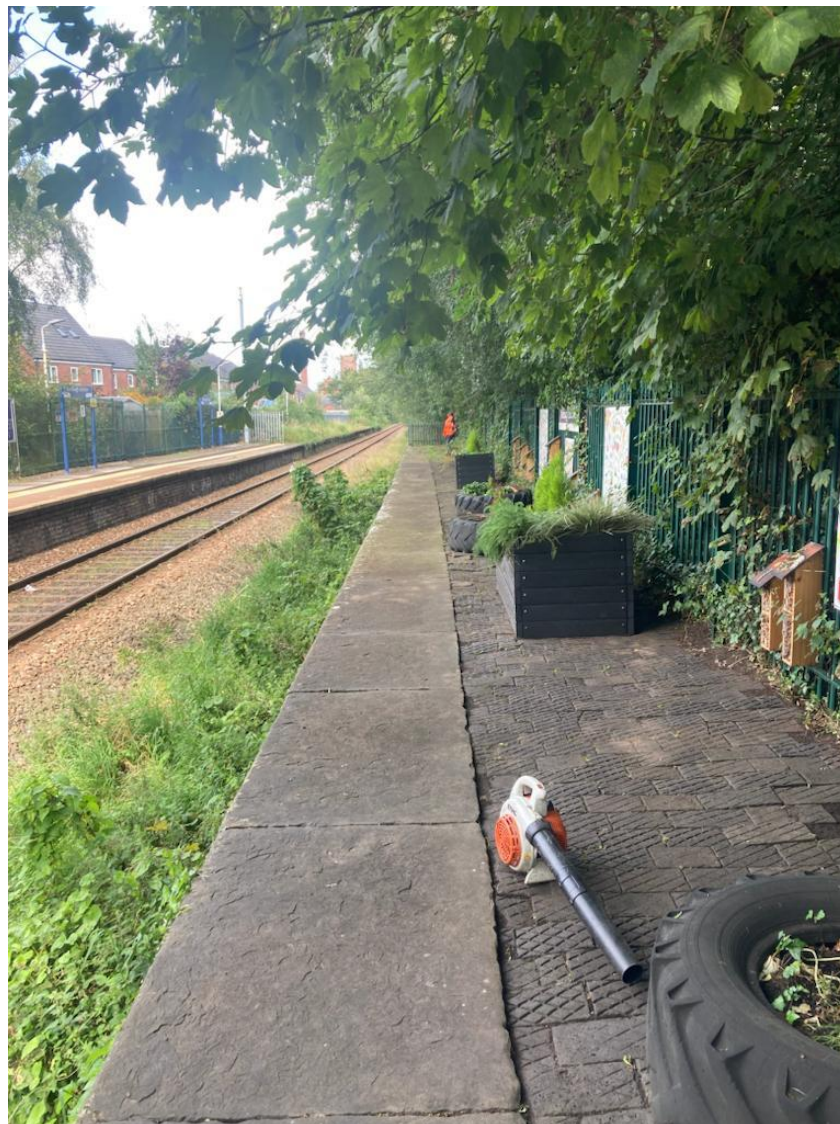
On the **Autism Friendly Line** (Blackburn to Manchester via Todmorden) CRL recently received the Autism Friendly Award see

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/autism-friendly-award-success/> for more information.



To find out more about the Autism Friendly Line project go to: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/autism-friendly-line/>

At **Burscough Junction** the Payback Team has been working hard to keep the disused platform looking smart as the attached picture shows.



Burscough Bridge (and stations)

Just started the engagement with the Burscough Bridge methodist School who are creating artwork that will be displayed at the entrance to the Martin Mere footpath at Burscough Bridge station. This will complement the 'Explore Lancashire By Rail' film showing the footpath route to Martin Mere V&WT site.



Hoscar

The Friends of Hoscar Station have produced with the help of the CRP and CRL a new history poster about their station.



The full poster can be seen here:

https://communityrailancashire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/19328-CRL-Hoscar-History-Poster-Feb23_V3-2.pdf

The CRP sponsored the **Wimin Festival** that was organised by Scrapyard Studios and held on the 29th July at Bootle.



Coming up:

- **Provisionally 23rd November:** launch of the artwork to mark the start of the footpath from Burscough Bridge station to Martin Mere. It is also hooped the new 'Explore Lancashire By Rail' film describing the route between Burscough stations and Martin Mere will also be ready. The other films in this series can be viewed at <https://communityrailancashire.co.uk/lancashire-by-rail/> including the canal walk between Rufford and Burscough.
- **East meets West:** as a follow up to the successful East meets West event held during Mays Community Rail Week we plan a follow up where West meets East!. It will be the turn of the Rufford station group to meet the Stations of Welcome group at Accrington Eco Station. Date to be arranged.
- **The guided walk programme** continues so check the website for details of walks in West Lancashire and elsewhere! <https://communityrailancashire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/CRL-Guided-Walks-Leaflet-Jun-Dec23.pdf>

- **Re-accreditation:** the reaccreditation meeting took place on **Thursday 5th October**. Accreditation must be renewed annually and the CRL Team has worked hard to ensure this is achieved again.
- Member of the CRL team will be attending the Community Rail Network and DfT **Community Rail Conference taking place on the 13th and 14th November** in Nottingham.
- The CRPs continue to be represented on **ComREG** by Richard Watts. The next meetings are planned for 8th November 2023 and 3 January 2024.
- Richard Watts also attends the quarterly DfT **National Community Rail Steering group**.
- Completion of the **‘Let’s Connect Communities’** projects and preparation of the end of project report. Develop plans for 2024.
- Distribution of the **December mini timetable for the Preston – Ormskirk line**.

Website

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/make-a-beeline-for-the-west-lancashire-line/>