



## Member updates

### Network Rail – Andy Griffin

Grants available for tree planting schemes. Doesn't have to be next to a station. Can apply for 10k.

With projects it doesn't have to be near rail. They're especially interested in any local community groups, social value outcomes. If there are any schools near a station that station adopters are engaged with it would very likely be granted funding for planting

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/grants-and-guidance/our-grants/network-rail-community-tree-planting-fund/>

Railway 20 – Train booked at Blackpool from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November. Working with CRL and Northern.

Greek Street – No trains will run to and from Stockport Station from 2<sup>nd</sup> August – 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/north-west/greek-street-bridge-replacement/#timeline>

**Andy**  
Community & Stations

**Griffin**

## **Lancashire County Council - Mike Cliff**

### **Skelmersdale TrainLink**

- Fares revised in March with £3 single and multimodal bus / rail fares available
- £6.30 off peak daysaver with 50% reduction for children and 16-18s
- Skelmersdale local services revised on 31<sup>st</sup> August to better tie in with Trainlink services
- Preston Bus operating the service from 20<sup>th</sup> July with timetable adjustments

### **Restoring Your Railway**

- MP interest in the RYR schemes including Burscough Curves
- Network Rail study underway to look at potential Merseyrail extensions including the Ormskirk – Preston and Headbolt Lane – Wigan Wallgate corridors with LCC and Liverpool City Region CA involvement

### **Lancashire County Council**

- New LCC administration reviewing transport priorities
- Local Transport Plan 4 consultation planned later in 2025
- Lancashire Combined County Authority continues to roll-out
- £215m of devolved capital Local Transport Grant funding has been received in the 4 years until 2029/30
- DfT has published its "Plan for Change" including rail and major road schemes: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-light-for-over-50-road-and-rail-upgrades-supporting-over-39000-new-homes-and-42000-jobs?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm\\_source=2275a633-a1a7-4b43-8cea-51fd87634aad&utm\\_content=daily#full-publication-update-history](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-light-for-over-50-road-and-rail-upgrades-supporting-over-39000-new-homes-and-42000-jobs?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=2275a633-a1a7-4b43-8cea-51fd87634aad&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history)
- Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding continues with route 347 Croston to Chorley introducing additional evening and Sunday services. The £1 evening fare continues and investment is planned to junctions, signals, realtime information and ticketing initiatives: <https://news.lancashire.gov.uk/news/here-are-the-latest-improvements-to-bus-services-coming-in-july>
- The LCC cabinet met on the 10<sup>th</sup> June and considered a plan for 2025/26 highlighting areas of focus including transport: <https://news.lancashire.gov.uk/news/our-areas-of-focus-for-2025-26-how-we-plan-to-build-a-better-lancashire-together>

### **Rail North Committee / Transport for the North Board**

- Focus continues on performance and reliability on the North's rail services, a push with central government for the resolution of Sunday rail services and improvements to accessibility at railway stations
- Meeting notes and webcasts for the June meetings can be viewed here: <https://www.transportforthenorth.com/calendar/>

## **OPSTA - Denis O'Connell**

A). The Southport line is still suffering from a deficient service mainly due to the Class 769's having consistent failures which in turn leads to 2 - car DMU's being used for rush hour trains and throughout the day. The Sunday service is not good. We still await what Northern have to say about a Sunday working agreement with their guards. It is worth noting that South Western Railway have had such an agreement for more than the last 25 years, for both their drivers and guards. Northern have an agreement with their drivers but are still waiting for their guards, and that is after the last attempt was rejected.

B The Ormskirk line is running at about 2-3% cancellations which is better than before, but consistency is sought.

C). We are seriously against the proposals for reorganising Oxford Road down to 2 running lines and a Bay from the present 4 running lines and a Bay. If it goes through, then there is no chance of the Southport to Manchester Airport service being reinstated in the future.

D). With regard to Midge Hall, we are waiting to see what the new Reform - led LCC come up with in terms of a transport policy.

E). The Burscough curve (s) and possible through running to Preston is still being talked about in various circles. As always, cash is the problem. Note - current edition of Rail magazine mentions this in an article on Page 60.

Trying to be proactive we are meeting Northern people with regard to Part (A) above with some ideas to make matters better.