

West of Lancashire CRP 26 02 2026

OPSTA Update

Denis O'Connell, Chair

1). The situation on the Southport line is still pretty dire although I have just been informed the 769's have been rewired and a powerpack update is due in May. The availability seems to be better i.e. 5/6 of the units scheduled actually filled their role recently.

2) Ormskirk line dipped a bit recently but seems to be holding up reasonably well.

3). We will be holding a passenger count in late March on the Ormskirk line. This time I have asked Alan to include much later times so as to get a better picture. We will send you the results when they come out.

4). At our recent members meeting in Burscough I had the very great pleasure of meeting, and talking with at length, Beth Nolan. We chatted about various things and it was decided that we would meet up again in March to see what she proposed to do to enhance the line. I look forward to that.

5). Our links with Edge Hill are progressing very well. The student involved also attended our meeting and I took the chance to have a long chat with him to understand what he was up to in terms of progressing the line. I also realised that there is a cohort of students who attend Newman College in Preston who join the train in Croston - something which hadn't dawned on me before. I will keep an eye on that aspect.

6). We have contacted the CEO of Manchester Airport after his 2 appearances on BBC Look North West bemoaning the inadequate transport links into the airport (in his view). I wondered whether he knew about the proposals for work on Oxford Road and how it might affect the Southport line etc. The reply was rather bland but at least we have flagged up the problems the Airport might encounter, as we see it.

7). We have responded to the published Lancashire Transport Plan, supplying a position paper which we hope will be used in LCC's eventual responses. There were over 1400 responses to the Consultative document - it will generate a reply, which in turn will ask for a final response.