



Community Rail Network Upcoming Events, Webinars and Training : 26th August 2026

Ian Davis - Support and Development Officer - North of England

Funding available through Community Rail Network

Community Rail Development Fund (CRDF)

The 2026-27 Community Rail Development Fund is now open.

Accredited community rail partnerships in England and Wales can apply to this funding scheme, which Community Rail Network administers on behalf of the Department for Transport. It is intended to support projects and activities set out in CRP's annual plans. The maximum grant for projects in this funding period is £25,000.

We have made some small changes to the application form this year based on member feedback, so please [download the latest version of the form](#) and check your application carefully before submission. Please get in touch with your usual contact within our [support & development team](#) to discuss your project ideas and funding requirements before making an application.

Small Grants Fund (England)

The 2026-27 Small Grants Fund (England) is open for applications.

Community Rail Network members in England can apply for small grants of up to £2,500 for non-accredited community rail partnerships and community station members, or £1,000 for station friends, adopters and small groups, through this scheme which Community Rail Network administers on behalf of the Department for Transport.

If you have any questions about applying to the Small Grants Fund, please contact grants@communityrail.org.uk.

[Download the application form and funding criteria.](#)

Travelling with Confidence Small Grants

As part of our [Travelling with Confidence programme](#) – aimed at empowering hundreds of disabled people to travel more confidently by rail and connecting modes – we are offering grants ranging from £2,000-£10,000 to accredited CRPs to set up similar, smaller-scale initiatives in their local areas. Projects must be delivered by December 2026. If you would like more information, please contact project coordinator [Ellen](#).

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Small Grants Fund

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is providing funding and wider support to community groups who want to improve Greater Manchester's rail stations. They have made a funding pot available for project bids from community rail partnerships and station friends groups. CRPs and Community Stations can bid for up to £1,500. Friends Groups can bid for up to £500.

Bids will be assessed on their benefit to local communities. We are looking for evidence-based submissions on what the project is hoping to achieve. This could be, for example:

- Greater local engagement
- Reduced crime
- Improved recycling rates

(Note: projects should not be primarily aimed at increasing rail patronage).

There is no limit on the amount of bids each CRP or Friends Groups can make. All bids must be submitted on the form below and emailed to grants@communityrail.org.uk and will be assessed by TfGM and Community Rail Network, and, where appropriate, Network Rail. Where appropriate submissions will be shared with Network Rail and train operators to a) seek relevant approvals and b) seek additional or match funding. Once a request has been approved funds will be distributed via Community Rail Network.

TfGM are also keen to help applicants with their projects and will also be happy to provide communications support, for example writing press releases or profiling your project on social media.

TfGM's rail officers are also keen to help you plan your project and also, where necessary, liaise with Network Rail and the train operators. TfGM may also be able to provide volunteer support. This will be measured as a funding contribution of £15 per hour. Community involvement in rail stations is hugely important and is highly valued by TfGM. It is a key part of their plan to transform rail stations into community hubs that provide access to a range of essential services.

[Download the application form and funding criteria.](#)

Sharpen Your Outcomes: Drop-in Session (3 of 3)

Thursday 27th August 2026 10:00 – 11:00 hrs

Online

Does your community rail partnership or station group have a project you're developing or an idea that's just starting to take shape?

Come along to our online drop-in session on Thursday 27 August, 10-11am, to talk through your project or idea, unpack your thinking and refine your outcomes, with support from our training and development team and fellow members.

Shaped by what participants bring on the day, this is a practical, supportive space to think aloud, test ideas, and strengthen outcomes through discussion and shared experience.

This session is for Community Rail Network members only.

[Book your place.](#)

Skill-Share: Trails and Walking Routes

Tuesday 15th September 2026 14:00 -15:30 hrs

Online

Featuring case studies from Gloucestershire CRP, Greening Arundel, Worcestershire CRP and Kent CRP, this session will explore practical learning from across the network, including co-design, scaling up walking activities, accessibility and inclusive design and project outcomes.

[Book your place.](#)

Join our mailing list

Education Network – September

Wednesday 16th September 2026 10:00 - 11:00 hrs

Online

The next Community Rail Education Network session will be held on Wednesday 16 September, 10-11am.

All notes, resources and recordings from previous meetings are available to view on the [Education Network website.](#)

The Education Network is open to anyone with an interest in railway education. If you would like to join the Network and attend any of the upcoming meetings, or if you have any education or youth engagement matters you would like to discuss, please contact Karen Bennett on [karen@communityrail.org.uk.](mailto:karen@communityrail.org.uk)

‘On Track for Inclusive Train Travel’: Webinar

Thursday 17th September 2026 12:00 - 13:00 hrs

Online

'On Track for inclusive train travel: a model for engaging disabled people with rail workforce culture change' was an innovation project focused on making rail travel more accessible and inclusive for disabled people.

Join our webinar on Thursday 17 September, 12-1pm, to hear about the key learnings from the project, as well as potential opportunities and next steps.

[Book your place.](#)

This session is open to Community Rail Network members and anyone with an interest in accessibility, disability and the railways.

[Read the 'On Track' discovery report here.](#)

Co-Production Working Day

Monday 21st September 2026 9:45 – 15:30 hrs

Millennium Point, Birmingham City Centre

Last year we held a successful working day looking at co-production and how it could be embedded into community rail projects.

This year, we'll get together to share learning so far from the Travelling with Confidence projects and identify success factors, tips, practicalities and realities to offer peer support, spark ideas and generate enthusiasm for the co-production approach. We'll also be contributing to the development of legacy project resources that can be used by others across the community rail movement and beyond, specifically around working with individuals and groups with disabilities and additional needs.

This working day is for those involved in TwC projects and for anyone from a Community Rail Network member organisation interested in co-production. It is a space to ask questions, explore ideas and look at practical solutions to issues that have/or may arise.

This session is a full day (9:45am-3:30pm) at Millennium Point in Birmingham City Centre.

[Book your place.](#)

Join our mailing list

Integrated Sustainable Transport Discussion Group

Thursday 1st October 2026 10:30 - 12:00:00 hrs

Online

Join us for the next meeting of our Integrated Sustainable Transport discussion group.

Agenda:

- Welcome and intro (Gary Shipp, Community Rail Network)
- Northern Rail update on active travel (Neil Carmichael, Northern Rail)
- Northern Active Travel Condition Survey (Mosodi)
- Great Western Railway's new Integrated Transport Strategy (Nick Read, Great Western Railway)
- Reminder about resources
- AOB

Contact g.shipp@communityrail.org.uk to request an invite or to access the recording afterwards.

Join our mailing list

Community Rail Conference

Monday 19th October 2026 13:30:- Tuesday 20th October 2026 15:00 hrs

Derby

The next Community Rail Conference will take place in Derby on Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 October 2026.

Hosted in partnership with the Department for Transport, our **Community Rail Conference** is specifically for **community rail partnerships** and **rail industry partners** and is **by invite only**.

The conference is an opportunity to network with colleagues, exchange ideas and experiences, learn and find inspiration for future activities. Find out more [here](#).

Booking details have now been emailed to all those eligible to attend, and outline agendas will be available soon.

If you have any questions, please contact events@communityrail.org.uk.

Join our mailing list

Tracks & Trails – Tourism Campaign

Monday 26th October 2026 12:00 am – Sunday 8th November 12:00 am

Online

Coordinated by Community Rail Network, our Tracks and Trails campaign promotes walking, wheeling and cycling by train. It will feature community rail initiatives and ideas of how people can explore the outdoors sustainably this autumn. More details to follow but if you're interested in getting involved, email [Alice](#).

Tourism Network – October

Wednesday 28th October 2026 10:00 – 11:30 hrs

Online

Join us for an engaging Tourism Network session with Shahiesta Iqbal of Community Rail Lancashire, who will highlight the success of the Stations of Welcome programme and the media publicity it has generated. There will also be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and learn from this innovative community rail initiative.

All Community Rail Network members are welcome to attend, please email [Alice](#).

AGM

Wednesday 4th November 2026 14:00 - 15:30 hrs

Online

Community Rail Network will hold its next Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Wednesday 4 November 2026 (14:00-15:30)**, online via Zoom.

[Find out more here.](#)

Tourism Network – December

Tuesday 15th December 2026 10:00 – 11:30 hrs

Online

Join us for our last Tourism Network session of 2026 where we will be sharing best practice and hearing from across community rail about their tourism and leisure initiatives.

All Community Rail Network members are welcome to attend, please email [Alice](#).

Scenic Rail Winter – Tourism Campaign

Monday 21st December 2026 12:00 am – Sunday 3rd January 2027 12:00 am

Online

Scenic Rail Winter returns for its sixth year, highlighting stunning railway photography and places to visit during the winter months. More details to follow but if you'd like to get involved, please email [Alice](#).

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