



NEWSLETTER

Updates for Stakeholders

In this issue:

- Stakeholder Meetings Pg. 1.
- Aims of the Partnership Pg. 2.
- CRP Activities Pg. 2
- Welcome Back packs Pg. 3.
- Backtrack Anti-Trespass Campaign Pg. 3
- Station Adoption Group Update Pg. 4
- TOC Guidance for Volunteers Returning to Stations Pg. 5.
- TOC Update Pg. 5.



We are now online and on social media Find us at heartcommunityrail.org.uk, on Twitter [@HeartCRP](https://twitter.com/HeartCRP) or on Instagram [@heartcommunityrail](https://www.instagram.com/heartcommunityrail)

If you would like to submit anything to be shared on social media, or news stories that you'd like on the website, then please just email me.

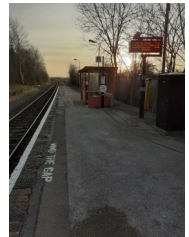
Stakeholder Zoom Meetings

On the 22nd May we held our first Zoom Stakeholder's meeting. The focus was on what the Partnership could do to help Stakeholders coming out of lockdown. We were asked for greater clarity on our aims and activities planned in Partnership as well as for guidance from the Train Operating Companies on returning to the stations safely. These points will be covered in this newsletter and should anyone want the minutes of that meeting, then please just let me know. Our next Stakeholder meeting will be on Friday 10th July. If you would like any specific topics covered in this meeting, then please let me know and I will send an agenda out closer to the time. We've had some very positive feedback from the first meeting and I hope that sometime in the future, we will be able to have these meetings face-to-face.



Aims of the Partnership

1. To act as both a catalyst and facilitator to maximise the potential of the HoE CRP by working positively with local communities, local authorities, businesses, train operators, Network Rail and all other relevant stakeholders set out by the HoE Partnership
2. To identify suitable projects, and where agreed by the HoE CRP, develop them and prepare funding bids to relevant bodies
3. To work with the franchise companies WMT, Chiltern, Avanti, CrossCountry, Vintage and Network Rail to maximise utilisation of their property portfolios and explore new and appropriate uses for railway buildings as well as improving existing facilities at stations, including bicycle storage, passenger information and waiting facilities.
4. To identify areas that are high suicide risks and develop a programme for prevention.
5. To involve the community in the work of local user groups, station partnerships, arts initiatives and improving links with local schools and colleges
6. To raise awareness of, and to promote, the rail services of the HoE CRP as a sustainable way to access the towns and cities within the HoE CRP for employment, education, leisure and tourism and as an access point onto the wider UK rail network.
7. To encourage and promote integration of the rail service with local bus services and links to the stations for walking and cycling, working in partnership with relevant providers and local authorities.
8. To actively involve children and young people by promoting rail as a safe environment through work in schools and the community.



CRP Activities

This is a brief summary of the activities which the CRP are engaged with. Some are on hold at the moment and we are always continuing to adapt our plans and look for new ways in which we can support our communities.

Continuing to look for new station adoption groups in the area.

Working with WMT, SLPG and other partners on developing the line identity of the Shakespeare Line, focusing on what each station along the line has to offer.

Liaising with Network Rail, WMT and the Friends of Henley Station to get the empty station building back in use.

Planning school visits to highlight rail safety and also at using trains as part of an integrated travel system to get to local attractions

Developing the Heart of England CRP's online presence through social media and building a website.

Looking at local events that we can link to such as Leamington Art in the Park and Stratford Literary Festival.

Linking with Coventry City Council and Avanti West Coast to plan how the new Coventry Station can best serve the community and support the Coventry City Of Culture 2021.

Partaking in meetings of the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Suicide Prevention Multi-Agency Group to identify how we can prevent incidents at stations and also how we can promote good mental health

Planning events at stations and on trains.

Welcome Back packs.

It is a truth universally known that the railway runs on its volunteers. During lockdown, volunteers have not been able to continue caring for their stations. As Train Operating Companies are carefully starting to allow adoption groups to return to their stations, the partners at the Heart of England CRP wanted to give a small token of appreciation for all the fantastic work that station adoption groups do. We have 131 volunteers over 15 adoption groups in our area and each group has made their station unique.



With part funding generously provided by the Community Rail Network, the Heart of England CRP has put together Welcome Back packs for each of its volunteers. Each pack contains hand sanitiser from the Warwickshire Gin Company, a reusable fabric face mask, a bottle of Warwick-based Iyoki Chapman's Original drink, chocolate

from Henley Chocolates and a pen donated by the Samaritans. Each station group also received a gift card for a garden centre local to their stations. Community Rail isn't just about trains and stations, it's about supporting the local communities. As well as saying a huge thank you to our amazing volunteers, it was also important that, as far as possible, we sourced the items in the Welcome Back packs from local, independent businesses. Local artists Byran B Kelly and Janet Watson helped to showcase the amazing art scene in Warwickshire, by donating cards with their beautiful artwork on them to include in the packs.



The Welcome Back packs have been well received, with volunteers describing them as 'lovely and thoughtful'. Social distancing was followed when delivering the packs and guidance from West Midlands Trains and Chiltern Railways was reiterated in relation to their guidance on volunteer-based activity at stations



Backtrack Anti-Trespass Campaign

The Heart of England are proud supporters of the Backtrack Anti-Trespass campaign. Aimed at 11 - 18 years olds, this is a fantastic competition with top prizes of a GoPro Hero 8 bundle being donated by the Heart of England CRP.

The competition closes on 30th September 2020 and more information can be found on the competition website:

www.downtheline.org.uk/projects/backtrack



Station Adoption Group Update.

Some groups are now starting to be allowed to volunteer at their stations again, and there has already been some fantastic progress on reclaiming the stations after lock down.



The Wildflower Border at Hatton Station is blooming.



This fantastic flowering train has been installed by the Friends of Nuneaton Station.

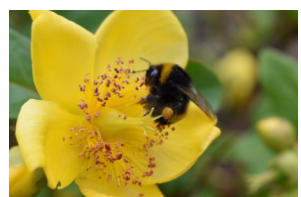


With thanks to Network Rail and West Midlands Trains for getting this beautiful sign up at Marston Green Station. The Friends of Marston Green ran a competition with a local school last year & this was the winning entry. Combined with the glorious planters this is a perfect way to welcome people to The Friendly Station!

What a difference a few weeks can make. Our newest station adoption group at Henley-in-Arden Station have already turned around this unloved station. On Saturday 27th June, they held a day for children to come up and plant in their new Kids' Corner. It was a great success and even the town criers came out to support the group!



Stations aren't just for people. These stunning photos were taken by the Friends of Kenilworth Station in their station gardens.





TOC Guidance for Volunteers Returning to Stations.

Every Train Operating Company has its own guidance for volunteers returning to stations. West Midlands Trains has now allowed volunteers to return to stations, but they must follow the guidance below



Please observe social distancing between fellow volunteers and passengers on the platforms and wear your hi-vis waistcoats

Regularly wash your hands before, during and after your visit and you may wish to wear a face covering

Try to limit your visit to the station to an hour or two and within off peak times if at all possible

Thank you for all you do to keep our stations looking beautiful. Please stay safe

Please contact friends@wmtrains.co.uk if you require any further support



Chiltern Railways are currently not allowing volunteers to return to stations, but they are actively looking at how they allow volunteers back at all their stations safely. They acknowledge how important it is for station adoption groups to be able to look after the work they've put into their stations and they are working hard to find a solution. As soon as they can, they will let us know when volunteer work can re-start.

TOC update

Avanti West Coast:

Have adopted the Sunflower scheme for hidden disabilities:

<https://newsdesk.avantiwestcoast.co.uk/news/sunflower-scheme-introduced-by-avanti-west-coast-for-customers-with-hidden-disabilities>

Have held their first Community Rail Conference:

<https://newsdesk.avantiwestcoast.co.uk/news/avanti-west-coast-hosts-first-community-rail-conference>

And have covered a Pendolino in a face covering to get the message across about the latest guidance:

<https://newsdesk.avantiwestcoast.co.uk/news/avanti-west-coast-pendolino-wears-a-face-covering-to-promote-new-guidance>



West Midlands Trains:

Held their first Railway Recovery and Inspiration Conference Webinar: [https://](https://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/westmidlandstrains/documents/west-midlands-railway-recovery-and-inspiration-conference-june-2020-97181)

www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/westmidlandstrains/documents/west-midlands-railway-recovery-and-inspiration-conference-june-2020-97181

CrossCountry Trains:

From Monday 6 July, there will be changes to their timetable as we continue to deliver a train service for those who need to make necessary journeys. Please help them to keep trains clear for those who really need them.