

PROGRESS REPORT

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SEVERNSIDE
Community Rail Partnership
c.i.c



Linking local communities with the rail industry

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership c.i.c.



Postal Address:

c/o GWR, Temple Meads Station, Bristol BS1 6QF

Chairman:

Keith Walton

E-Mail:

keith.sevenside@btconnect.com

Tel:

07740 047812

Partnership Officer:

Heather Cullimore

E-Mail:

sevenside@gmail.com

Tel:

07795 562311

www.sevenside-rail.org.uk

Cover: The Severn Beach line green team being helped by pupils from Hannah More Primary School.

Welcome to the Severnside Community Rail Partnership's 2016 Progress Report

The Severnside Community Rail Partnership works with local communities to identify and implement measures to encourage the use of local trains on routes radiating from Bristol; and to ensure that access to local stations is easy and that stations provide a safe and welcoming environment.

Over the last few years the local stations have been transformed. The basic infrastructure has not changed, but stations are now cared for by the community. Local schools display their artwork on the platforms (and compete for the available space!), and community groups tend the gardens. The graffiti has (largely) gone. The stations are now much more inviting, safer and less intimidating places to use.

Recently the emphasis has included developing projects involving young people and encouraging station volunteer groups to participate in the Royal Horticultural Society 'It's Your Neighbourhood' awards, both of which are illustrated in this report.

The running costs of the Partnership, and many of our projects, receive significant funding by way of grants from Great Western Railway (GWR) and the local authorities. Without their support and encouragement, the Partnership could not operate and deliver the considerable benefits which are being achieved. As part of the new Greater Western Franchise, more funding has been provided for Community Rail projects; we very much welcome this.

Keith Walton
Chairman



Planters and volunteers at Keynsham Station.

Partnership Organisation and Structure

The Severnside Community Rail Partnership is a Community Interest Company; we cover the network of routes radiating from Bristol, bounded by Gloucester, Bath/Freshford, Weston-super-Mare, Taunton, and the Severn Estuary; this includes the branch line to Severn Beach.

The Partnership's Principal Sponsors are Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset, Somerset, and South Gloucestershire Councils, Great Western Railway (GWR) and the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), who together form the Management Board for the Partnership. We have also welcomed support from CrossCountry Trains, Network Rail, British Transport Police, through their Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Probation Service Community Payback scheme. The Principal Sponsors also have the option of being nominated as Directors of the Partnership, who are legally responsible for the conduct of the Partnership, in accordance with the Companies Acts. The running costs of the Partnership, and many of our projects, are met by way of funding from GWR and the local authorities. Our work is considerably assisted by local and community voluntary effort.

The Severn Beach line has been formally designated as a Community Rail Route. This gives the Partnership an enhanced role and real involvement in the development of the line, and helps encourage innovation.



Community Payback work at Weston Milton.

Working with communities in 2015

As In previous years, much effort has gone into working with communities to improve local unstaffed stations to provide a safer and friendlier waiting environment. The Partnership covers 25 local stations most of which are unstaffed or only staffed part-time.

In 2015, community involvement work has taken place at Avonmouth, Bedminster, Clifton Down, Filton Abbey Wood, Keynsham, Lawrence Hill, Montpelier, Nailsea and Backwell, Oldfield Park, Parson Street, Patchway, Redland, Sea Mills, Severn Beach, Shirehampton, Stapleton Road, Weston Milton, Weston-super-Mare, Worle, Yate, Yatton, Bridgwater, Highbridge and Burnham.

We have been greatly supported in our station improvement work by the Probation Service - much of the heavier work has been done by offenders as part of Community Payback scheme. By arrangement with the Probation Service we fund dedicated Supervisors to work with a small team of offenders one day a week.

The Community Payback work is then followed up by encouraging local schools to look after station gardens and to brighten up the stations with artwork displays.

Experience has shown that involving the local community, and particularly schools, encourages more pride and less vandalism at stations - better stations attract new passengers to the trains. We have encouraged, the formation and development of station support groups at local stations, and many local stations are now being "adopted" by local schools. We have established good working relations with neighbourhood and in-bloom groups and with many schools and colleges. Year 6 pupils at schools located near to local rail stations are offered rail familiarisation visits.

Contributing our expertise

The Partnership has been heavily involved with a wide range of other activities including:-

- working with GWR on a programme of identifying improvements at local stations, including better customer information, more seating, additional shelters, lighting and cycle storage, which is being taken ahead with funding allocated as part of the new Greater Western Franchise
- contributing to various British Transport Police Community Partnership meetings
- considering, and responding to, various consultations from the Department for Transport, GWR, Network Rail and other organisations
- continuing to work with employers on the North Bristol Fringe to encourage rail commuting via Bristol Parkway and Filton Abbey Wood
- liaison with the SevernNet business and community organisation on potential greater use of rail at Avonmouth and St Andrews Road stations
- contributing to the Forgotten Landscape and Coastal Communities project teams, which cover areas bordering the Severn Estuary
- membership of the MetroWest Programme Board for delivering half hourly services across the local network and reopening the Portishead and Henbury lines
- encouraging scholars to use the train, where there is capacity, by promoting scholar season tickets to schools and colleges via the SCRP Website; these tickets offer termly or academic year seasons at considerable discount
- working with the Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways on a summer weekday count of passengers using the Severn Beach line; and on other promotional activities
- reviewing, along with GWR and the local authorities, the fare structure, fares and fare collection on the Severn Beach line
- following up research on potential improvements to Sunday services on the Severn Beach line
- participation in Network Rail's West Country Community Safety Partnership Group
- attendance at station user group meetings
- facilitating working party meetings for Somerset and North Somerset station volunteer groups on the Weston-super-Mare – Taunton route.



The Partnership is exploring the possibility of renovating derelict accommodation at Bridgwater station for community use.

Key Achievements



Primary School Rail Familiarisation Visits

The Partnership's successful rail familiarisation visit programme has continued throughout 2015. Teaming up with GWR and Forest Child Bristol, we offer year six (final year of primary school) classes a return journey by rail to either Severn Beach or Weston-super-Mare. Any school situated within walking distance of a local station on the Severn Beach or Weston line is eligible to participate free of charge. Visits are designed to develop young people's understanding of the railway as a safe, smart and sustainable travel option. During the day pupils are given an overview of how to stay safe at the station and on the train. GWR Customer Ambassadors present options for finding information about journey planning and ticket purchasing. An outdoor learning session, usually delivered on the beach, introduces the concept of rail as a sustainable travel option. During the 2014-15 academic year almost 1000 pupils participated in the visits; around a quarter of the children had never used a train before - so we hope they will have the confidence to travel independently by rail as they progress to secondary school. For 2016, schools book rail familiarisation visits through the Severnside CRP website. We hope to extend the visits to include schools from Bath and North East Somerset in the visits programme from April 2016.

Request a Rail Familiarisation Visit

We offer visits each Tuesday to Severn Beach from:
PLATE HEATH, LAWRENCE HILL, SHAPTON ROAD, WOODHILL, REDLAND, CLIFTON DOWN, SEA WALLS, SPURRING, WOODHILL, SEVERN BEACH

We offer visits each Monday to Weston-super-Mare from:
BRISTON STREET, HALSEA & SACOVILL, TAYTON, WORTLE, WESTON HILL TOL, HIGHBRIDGE and BURHAMAL, BREADHAY, WOOD, WESTON PARKWAY

Request Line	Severn Beach (dropdown)
Name of School	Enter text
Name of Class	Enter text
Preferred Date of Visit	Enter text
Departing from	Enter text (dropdown)
Outbound Train Departure Time	Enter text
Return Train Arrival Time	Enter text

Royal Horticultural Society and South West in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood Awards

The Partnership encourages and supports our station volunteer groups to participate in the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Awards. The scheme acknowledges and rewards the efforts of volunteers focused on cleaning up and greening up local space while bringing members of the community together to make positive changes. Stations are assessed under the core pillars of community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement. In 2015 eighteen stations in the Severnside CRP region were visited by RHS assessors with each repeat entry improving or maintaining their previous level of achievement.



The Severn Beach Line Goes Green in 2015

To help celebrate Bristol Green Capital 2015 the Severnside CRP sponsored a range of "green" initiatives. We worked with GWR, SISK Rail, Incredible Edible and ten partner primary schools to install "cycle planters" at local stations in Bristol. The innovative new planters, designed and manufactured in Bristol, are stocked with a range of edible plants tended by local schools and community groups. The Severn Beach line is now firmly established as part of Bristol's Urban Food Trail and, in line with the ethos of Incredible Edible Bristol, anyone is welcome to pick and enjoy the fruits of the station cycle planters. Partner Primary Schools participated in art workshops to celebrate the wide range of food and feasting enjoyed within their diverse communities and plaques are displayed at local stations. Horticultural projects now benefit from water butts, fed from the shelter gutters, and all stations have recycling bins. The cycle planters have created 40 much needed cycle parking spaces along the line. The Partnership and GWR are following up research to better understand the needs of cyclists, who take their bikes on the Severn Beach line trains.



The Severn Beach line green team celebrates success with a coffee from the trike at Redland station.

Key Achievements

Renovating Iconic Station Murals

With the support of GWR and Bristol City Council, two iconic murals at local stations were renovated during 2015. The rundown and dismal appearance of exterior walls at Montpelier were brightened up by being painted in graffiti style in 2007 by a local community artist. The artwork was a main spark leading to the change in fortunes of the Severn Beach line, with considerable reductions in crime and a sense of community ownership. After 8 years, the mural had faded with paint beginning to peel, so the original artist - Silent Hobo (whose career took off after national publicity for his Montpelier work) returned and redesigned the main part of work. The result is quite spectacular. A new mural will be created in 2016 by local school pupils, across the remainder of the station building.



As an extension of the Arts Council funded "City to Seaside" secondary schools rail arts project for the Severn Beach line, a new mural was installed under the canopy at Avonmouth station, showcasing thirty nine high quality images of the Severn Beach line and the communities which surround the local stations. The photographs were taken by local students participating in the project which has been running since 2013.



Heritage Art in North Somerset

Under a Severnside CRP Initiative, students from Worle Community School produced local history maps as part of their week long summer enrichment programme. Facilitated by artist Xeena Cooper, students were presented with a live brief giving the project real value with expectations, restrictions and deadlines. The students' involvement in the project will enable them to achieve the Bronze Arts Award which is a nationally recognised qualification. The maps can be seen at all the stations across North Somerset.



Successful Partnerships with Town Councils

Much of the progress at Keynsham and Yate stations has been thanks to partnership working with the respective Town Councils. 2015 saw a new Town Council initiative; in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council and Filton Town Council new planters were provided to help brighten up Filton Abbey Wood station.



New cycle planters in use at Filton Abbey Wood Station, where passenger numbers have increased in 2015 by 11%.

Social Media

During 2015 the Partnership worked with university students, with experience in web and graphic design, to develop and implement a new website and a social media policy.

Our Website "www.severnside-rail.org" was completely re-built by a student from The University of the West of England alongside a Bath Spa University student who created a range of attractive and professional graphics. The website has been subsequently further developed to enable local schools to book Rail Familiarisation Visits online: the system automatically organises the visit, including bespoke train departure information from the school's local station, and then issues and stores all the documentation for each visit.

The Partnership has been exploring ways to liaise with local communities and passengers. Many groups now have their own Facebook page on our website, which also serves as a portfolio for the station's entry to the RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood' award scheme.



Passengers using local and regional trains in the West of England 2015

Cardiff - Bristol - Westbury - Portsmouth/Weymouth	9,321,000
Bristol - Severn Beach	1,281,000
Bristol - Weston-super-Mare - Taunton	2,017,000
Bristol - Gloucester - Great Malvern	1,517,000
Total West of England local/regional journeys	14,136,000

Notes: These figures are from GWR ticket sales allocated Lennon data and include only GWR journeys. Some journeys made for example on rover tickets or employee passes, or on substitute buses, may not have been recorded. So the figures may underscore the total journeys, but this is unlikely to be significant.

Passenger Statistics

Passengers using West of England area local stations on weekdays - total entries and exits

Station	2007	2014	2015
Yate	694	1,337	1,351
Patchway	139	381	446
Filton Abbey Wood	1,958	4,160	4,620
Bedminster	156	376	*
Parson Street	108	418	573
Nailsea and Backwell	1,315	1,765	1,874
Yatton	1,192	1,497	1,517
Worle	841	1,426	1,567
Weston Milton	261	389	389
Weston-s-Mare	2,279	2,379	2,805
Keynsham	839	1,504	1,654
Oldfield Park	841	1,459	1,431
Freshford	89	129	137
Severn Beach	135	269	390
St Andrews Road	30	94	69
Avonmouth	218	592	719
Shirehampton	86	359	*415
Sea Mills	121	399	346
Clifton Down	500	1,908	*1,865
Redland	264	742	783
Montpelier	253	1,082	1,147
Stapleton Road sb	326	1,082	946
Lawrence Hill sb	263	693	789
Temple Meads sb	649	2,321	2,328
Severn Beach line trains total	2,845	9,541	9,797
Stapleton Road nsb	91	449	526
Lawrence Hill nsb	49	436	556
Stations - Temple Meads - Severn Beach - all trains	2,985	10,426	10,879

Notes: The figures above are from the November weekday count which is undertaken annually by the West of England local authorities and is a one-day snapshot of the total number of passengers both boarding and alighting at the station on the day of the count. The 2015 figures are provisional.

* Because of the need to revalidate some data, a November 2015 figure is not yet available for Bedminster. 2015 figures shown for Shirehampton and Clifton Down are taken from the Severnside CRP June 2015 count, and will be replaced in the web version of this Report by data from the November count as soon as available.

nsb = not Severn Beach line passengers
sb = Severn Beach line passengers

Office of Rail and Road station usage statistics - total entries and exits

West of England	2013/14	2014/15
Avonmouth	111,440	119,924
Bath Spa	5,990,274	6,222,126
Bedminster	83,242	87,542
Bristol Parkway	2,215,810	2,340,506
Bristol Temple Meads	9,522,840	10,099,526
Clifton Down	573,770	619,766
Filton Abbey Wood	988,734	1,007,780
Freshford	40,148	44,414
Keynsham	358,186	412,602
Lawrence Hill	136,316	150,774
Montpelier	121,294	130,560
Nailsea & Backwell	423,174	450,510
Oldfield Park	305,984	312,946
Parson Street	102,654	114,458
Patchway	90,404	92,540
Pilning	88	68
Redland	93,176	105,610
Sea Mills	58,106	64,512
Severn Beach	195,824	224,658
Shirehampton	51,542	52,480
St. Andrew's Road	13,376	11,184
Stapleton Road	157,294	178,114
Weston Milton	56,068	64,494
Weston-Super-Mare	1,062,670	1,099,844
Worle	276,016	291,502
Yate	328,832	354,004
Yatton	416,794	435,626
Totals	23,774,056	25,088,070

Wiltshire (selected)

Avoncliff	19,432	19,432
Bradford-on-Avon	534,946	534,946
Chippenham	1,895,980	1,895,980
Trowbridge	849,928	903,248
Westbury	486,546	529,358

Somerset (selected)

Bridgwater	293,924	308,856
Highbridge & Burnham	168,898	190,396
Taunton	1,261,950	1,315,144

Gloucestershire (selected)

Cam & Dursley	177,094	185,504
Cheltenham Spa	1,924,750	2,038,404
Gloucester	1,314,800	1,364,142

Figures above are from Office of Rail and Roads published station usage data, based on ticket sales allocated Lennon data.

Accounts and financial statement

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership

Year ended 31 March 2015 - Balance Sheet		
	£ 2015	£ 2014
Fixed Assets	-	-
Current Assets		
Debtors	31	-
Cash at bank and in hand	48,573	40,182
	<u>48,604</u>	<u>40,182</u>
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	(719)	(839)
Net Assets	47,885	39,343
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	<u>47,885</u>	<u>39,343</u>
Represented by:		
Restricted funds	9,137	4,289
Unrestricted funds	38,748	35,054
	<u>47,885</u>	<u>39,343</u>

The Directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act. The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

Year ended 31 March 2015 - Profit and Loss Account		
	£ 2015	£ 2014
Turnover	82,575	65,741
Administrative Expenses	(74,034)	(73,132)
Operating Profit/Loss	8,541	(7,391)
Interest Receivable	1	-
Profit/(Loss) on Ordinary Activities before taxation	8,542	(7,391)
Corporation Tax	-	-
Retained profit brought forward	<u>39,343</u>	<u>46,734</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>47,885</u>	<u>39,343</u>

The Company has no recognised gains or losses other than the profit/loss for the above financial period. None of the Company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above financial period.

Severnside Community Rail Partnership

Year ended 31 March 2014 Income and Expenditure information				
	£ 2015 Restricted	£ 2015 Unrestricted	£ 2015 Total	£ 2014 Total
Income				
Contributions from partners		41,500	41,500	42,000
Somerset projects	1,500		1,500	
Arts Project Grants	11,840		11,840	5,760
Severn Beach line research	4,000		4,000	5,000
GWR	19,810	1,860	21,670	9,222
Scholars project				2,684
Bank Interest		1	1	
Miscellaneous	75	1,990	2,065	1,075
	37,225	45,351	82,576	65,741
Expenditure				
Travel & Subsistence		1,010	1,010	1,618
Salary and payroll costs		31,902	31,902	30,861
Miscellaneous	2,107	743	2,850	2,661
Telephone/IT		2,510	2,510	4,536
Postage/stationery/printing		183	183	228
Research	4,763		4,763	10,040
Meetings/Events		158	158	163
Accommodation		3,960	3,960	2,310
Accountancy/Audit/Insurance		1,191	1,191	1,338
Station improvement projects	12,891		12,891	9,553
Bristol Green Capital	6,314		6,314	
Scholars project	6,302		6,302	9,824
	32,377	41,657	74,034	73,132
Surplus/Deficit for the year	4,848	3,694	8,542	(7,391)
Transfer between funds				
Balance brought forward	4,289	35,054	39,343	46,734
Balance at 31 March 2015	9,137	38,748	47,885	39,343

Contributions in kind: we are grateful for travel passes provided by GWR and Cross Country Trains, which are not included above.

Local authorities gain considerable benefits from their funding towards the running costs of the Partnership.

The Partnership has an active role in helping to deliver Local Transport Plans and other targets through:

- working with train operators to achieve more frequent off-peak local train services
- working with train operators to resolve problems of lack of peak capacity – some additional carriages now in service, more carriages from late 2016
- delivering small scale improvements to make local stations more welcoming, safer and environmentally friendly – on-going programme
- making rail travel easier for local passengers:
 - simplified timetable posters - displayed at all unstaffed stations
 - better, and better targeted, local publicity through leaflets and special promotions
 - reducing barriers to travel through:
 - improving station safety and security – CCTV already installed at most stations, with a programme to extend this
 - better station access – the Partnership is able to sponsor and attract match funding for small schemes
 - promoting integration – eg combined bus-rail tickets.

The Partnership's work also helps local authorities deliver a sustainable transport system, assisting with local regeneration schemes and promoting economic growth. Much of our work is in socially deprived areas which helps meet local authority social inclusivity targets. We have developed a range of measures to encourage localism, including local volunteering.

The Partnership's work fully supports the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan with its proposals for generating jobs, housing and transport including MetroWest. With improved rail services linking up major growth areas at the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone (17,000 jobs) at Bristol Temple Meads and the five Enterprise Areas including Weston-super-Mare J21 (11,000) and Bath City Riverside (9,000), MetroWest will play an important role in bringing these employment centres closer to the skilled workforce catchment.

Increasingly, the Partnership is providing a facilitation role with the industry and stakeholders in the delivery of small rail improvement schemes.

Augmenting Councils' influence on the rail industry

The Partnership provides an opportunity for local authorities to have regular and easy access to senior rail management; and for local authorities to come together with other Partnership members and the train operators to make representations, for instance to the Department for Transport. The Partnership "club membership" provides a mechanism for consultation, input and influence on rail issues varying from significant policy development to more practical issues such as local timetables, which would not otherwise be so readily available. There are many different bodies in the privatised rail industry – commercial, regulatory and statutory – each with their own interests and with inter-dependent relationship. The Partnership is a unique forum to bring these together

Information for local authority members and transport officers

The Partnership provides a source of independent expertise and briefing for local authorities on rail issues, such as timetable changes, rolling stock, performance and infrastructure development. The briefings help local authority members and officers, and reduce the need for each local authority separately to devote time and effort to researching rail issues

Support for the local economy by encouraging rail tourism

The Partnership works closely with tourism agencies, and produces leaflets promoting days out by train in the West of England

Access to funding, which is not available to local authorities

As a Community Interest Company, the Partnership is able to attract grants and match funding not available to public sector bodies. This has already been used to help deliver local station improvements

A mechanism for involving local communities constructively in supporting public transport

The Partnership provides a mechanism for involving local communities constructively in supporting public transport – for example not only do art displays and gardens help to make the stations more friendly places, but local "ownership" helps reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour.