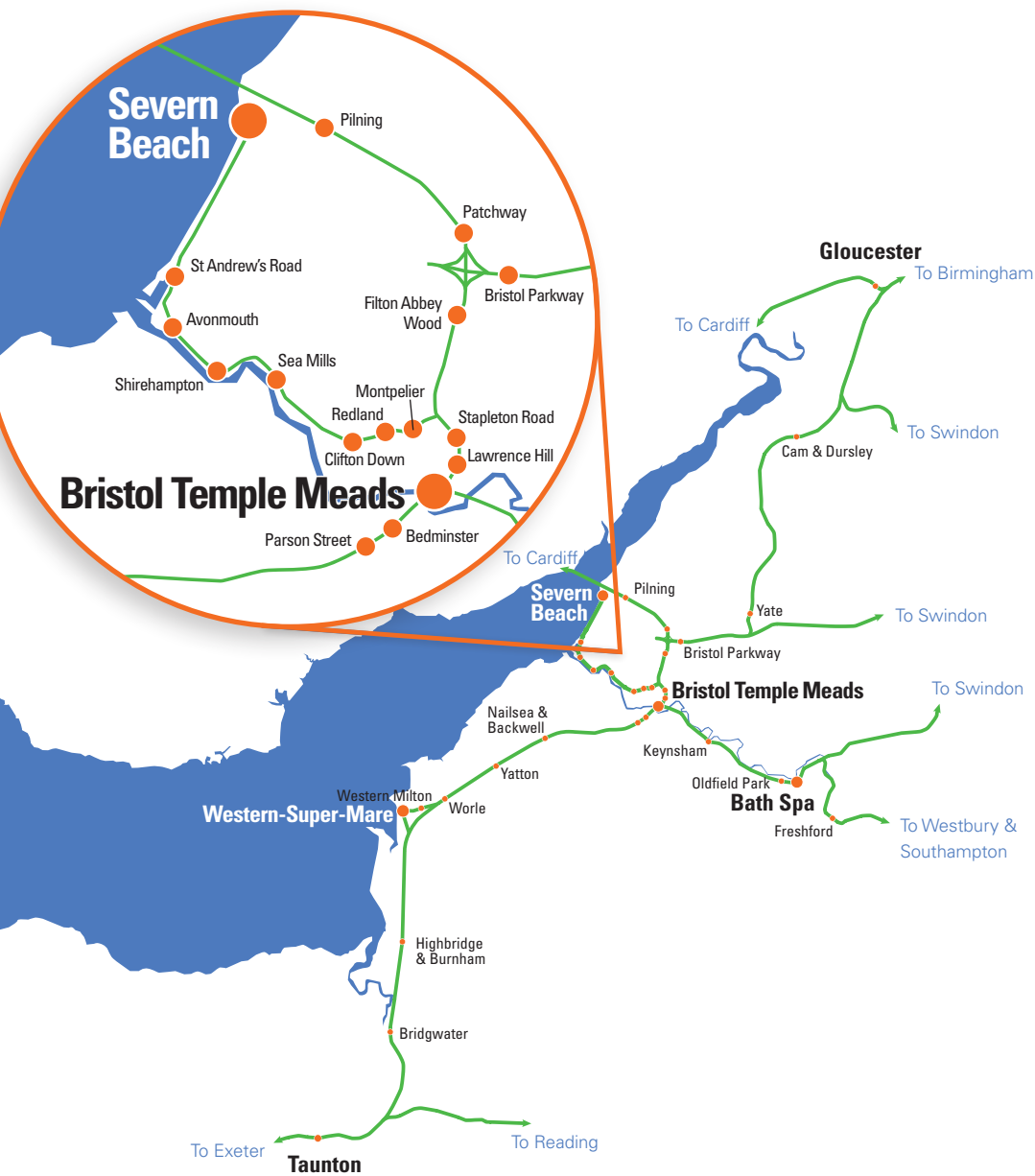




PROGRESS REPORT

Published February 2019

Linking local communities with the rail industry



Welcome to the Severnside Community Rail Partnership's 2019 Progress Report

The Severnside Community Rail Partnership is the link between local communities and the rail industry. 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.

We work with local communities and a range of partners to identify and implement measures to ensure that access to local stations is easy and that stations are safe and welcoming.

We have sponsored, organised and arranged funding packages for community-based improvements at over half the local stations. These include a complete rebuild of Severn Beach station – the first and, so far the only, local station in the West of England to have been completely rebuilt. We recently developed and implemented, with the local community, a plan and funding package for a comprehensive improvement of Avonmouth station, transforming a derelict eyesore, and run down environment with new facilities and a community garden – which will play a part presenting a more attractive public transport entrance to the Enterprise Area. Both these major schemes were delivered on time and below budget. Other local stations have been transformed, considerably assisted – on a voluntary basis – by young people and local communities. Schools display their artwork on the platforms and community groups tend the gardens, many of which have received “outstanding” in the RHS It’s Your Neighbourhood Awards.

As well as station-based schemes, our emphasis is also on improving social inclusivity and access to the local railway, including facilitating free-of-

charge rail visits for disadvantaged communities. Special events are also held on trains for hard-to-reach groups. During the journey, participants are encouraged to socialise and participate in an activity such as creative artwork.

Our rail familiarisation programme for year-six primary school pupils is designed to ensure those attending a school within walking distance of a station experience at least one rail journey so they have confidence to use the local railway independently, as they progress to secondary school. We also negotiated an innovative, low cost season ticket scheme for some secondary school pupils.

A top prize-winning Partnership

Many of our schemes have won Awards – and last October the Partnership’s work was recognised nationally when we received the top award for our “Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail”. The Partnership is a Community Interest Company. The running costs of the Partnership, including the post of Partnership Manager, receive significant funding by way of grants from Great Western Railway, Cross Country Trains and local authorities. Without their support and encouragement, we could not operate and deliver the considerable benefits which are being achieved. Under Great Western and Cross Country Franchise arrangements, there has been a much welcomed increase in funding for specific Community Rail projects, and this is supplemented by bids for specific grants from local authority and other sources.

Keith Walton, Chairman

Severnside Community Rail Partnership c.i.c

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Our principal funders and sponsors



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Some of the Partnership's Achievements in 2017

Safer & More Welcoming Local Stations

The Severnside Community Rail Partnership has a tradition successfully engaging schools, community groups and individual volunteers in projects to enhance their local stations, ensuring their stations provide both a welcoming environment for passengers and an attractive gateway to the neighbourhood.

It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme

Voluntary groups tending gardens at Yatton and Oldfield Park stations, along with the whole of the Severn Beach branch line were thrilled to retain a much deserved "Outstanding" status in the Royal Horticultural Societies It's Your Neighbourhood Award Scheme which recognises Community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement. Every station's volunteers must be applauded for their efforts and commitment throughout the summer of 2018 which will be remembered for being one of the hottest on record. Tremendous community efforts ensured plants were watered regularly and not lost to the drought.



Community Payback

Local stations benefit from offenders spending their unpaid work hours improving the station environment. A qualified supervisor, employed by the Partnership, brings small groups of offenders to local stations once a week. The 2018 community payback programme covers

stations across the five local authorities within the Partnership's region and includes the clearance of vegetation, horticultural activity, litter picking and supports volunteer groups entries to the It's Your Neighbourhood Award competition.

Incredible Edibles

Our partnership with Incredible Edible Bristol is now into its fourth year and brings a volunteer working party to tend station planters each month. Everyone is welcome and the working parties always bring a very friendly, diverse group of volunteers which frequently includes students studying at the local universities. Produce grown in the designated edible station planters is available to the whole community – be it local resident or commuter - to pick and enjoy.

Involving Young People

Bold community art schemes at local stations are nothing new and it has been long proven that where a quality piece of art is installed it deters further instances of mindless graffiti tagging. In March 2018 we embarked on our most ambitious art scheme to date – a mural covering a 50 meter long wall on the approach to Montpelier station. Incorporating ideas received during a community consultation, the design by Bristol artist Silent Hobo reflects the neighbourhood, its flora and fauna and carries the Crimestoppers "Fearless" logo -raising awareness of the crime reporting campaign aimed at young people. Students from the Kingsweston campus of City of Bristol



College and pupils from Dolphin Primary school received a street art masterclass and contributed to actual painting. The art and landscape integration is impressive and the mural widely praised. To view the creation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ8AJDVsJOE>.

Under the rail transformation programme 2018 saw an unprecedented number of track possessions and the necessity for passengers to use bus rail replacement on a number on numerous occasions across the local routes. This included the five day closure of Bristol Temple Meads for re-signalling over Easter and the three week closure of the Filton bank to reinstate track between Bristol Temple Meads and Bristol Parkway. Our Rail Representatives from Cotham School turned communications experts helping script and taking starring roles in a film informing passengers of how to use bus-rail replacement. Launched in advance of the Bristol Area Signalling Renewal and Enhancement Project and shared frequently before other subsequent periods of rail replacement, the film amassed substantial views across social media platforms and YouTube. Designed for a teenage audience but equally relevant for adults, it was also used as a training tool for GWR, NR and agency staff assigned to supporting passengers during periods of rail replacement. View the film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WxZlcnQIEo>



Under funding from the A Forgotten Landscape Heritage Lottery funded project and the Partnership, the 63rd Bristol Scouts took a journey of discovery along the Severn Beach line and recorded their findings. The film promotes the line beautifully and the Scouts efforts were rewarded with an Entertainer badge. View the <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWaWJh0nF6E&t=24s>

Walking for Health

Offering a change of scene and great company, our walks from the rail programme. Groups of up to 20 walkers enjoy guided walks lead by qualified Walking for Health leaders. The package includes rail travel from Bristol Temple Meads to either Severn Beach, Yatton or Bradford-on-Avon for a scenic gentle walk and an opportunity to visit local cafes to refuel before taking the train back to Bristol. Launched during Bristol Walk Fest in May 2019, the programme is open to all and rounded off with a visit to Yatton on a sunny October Sunday.

Supporting the Local Economy

The Partnership encourage enterprise at local stations and are proud of the small business operating from station buildings at Yatton and Redland. We pleased to support local traders by funding poster cases and the print of maps to promote our Business Improvement Districts.

Awards Success

January brought award success at the National Rail Business Awards with our Partnership with GWR and Cotham School winning the Safety and Security Excellence Category.

The Association of Community Rail Partnership's annual award ceremony held on Glasgow brought further recognition with the "Fearless" Montpelier Mural winning first place in the Community Art Schemes (permanent) category. We took the second prize in the Involving Young People category for the Cotham School Rail Replacement Film and also second prize in the Best Community Engagement Category for 'On the Move Events'. Furthermore, the Severnside Community Rail Partnership was announced the overall winner receiving the "Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail Award" with the judges acknowledging the efforts of the whole team in creating safer, more pleasant and welcoming station environments and 'community friendly' railways lines for passengers.

On Train Events

Throughout 2018 the Partnership has hosted a number of special events on trains while they are in service on local routes. One of several initiatives developed to highlight our socially inclusive railway, the events take place on specially selected off peak services identified as having space capacity. Each event is delivered in partnership with another community organisation enabling a greater understanding of the needs of participants and yielding some excellent cross promotion. Feedback confirms the events programme has encouraged people from across the region to connect or re-connect with the railway when they might not have otherwise been motivated to travel by train.

The 2018 event programme kicked off in January with an arts workshop delivered in collaboration with Bristol Women's Voice to mark the 100 years of women's vote. Creations produced during the on-train workshop featured in the city's Suffrage Centenary Lantern Parade.



The following month sixth form students from Colston's Girls' school brought their "When I Grow Up" campaign to the train. The project is part of a Community Apprentice Scheme run by the Envision charity and supported by GWR. Students engaged passengers by facilitating discussions around what each individual wants, or wanted, to be when they grow up, leading onto conversations about challenging gender stereotypes in the workplace.



April saw the first (as far as we know) Human Library on a train. In line with the international scheme designed to challenge prejudice against social contact among diverse groups, local volunteers became human books, lending themselves out to passengers for conversations about their chosen subject during the journey. Undoubtedly the major draw from the eclectic catalogue were popular Bristolian stars of Channel 4 Goggelbox Mary and Marina who raised many a smile sharing their knowledge of local history with characteristic cheek; Darren Jones MP and Robot Engineer Steve Bullcock were also in high demand.



A "Communita" party raised awareness of the Crimestoppers charity's 30th anniversary of harnessing the public with a mechanism to report crime anonymously and without fear of re-percussion and the afternoon tea arrangement saw possibly the best dressed carriage ever witnessed on a cl165 turbo. Food events are a popular draw to passengers and Bristol Food Connections Week brought many for a healthy breakfast give away, an afternoon tea and a toddler takeover picnic – each serving locally produced food and drink while on the move.



We twice brought music to passenger's ears during the summer. As part of Action on Dementia Week "Singing for the Brain on the Train" gave 20 dementia patients and their families and careers an opportunity to enjoy a sing along while traveling up and down the branch line between Bristol Temple Meads, while on International Making Music day 2018 the travelling public were entertained by West Country band "Up the Folk".



Link Age run a busy programme designed to combat loneliness and bring "Games on the Train" to the Severn Beach line every other month. During the journey participants play a game or two of bingo or cards but most importantly enjoy a cup of tea, a chat and a change of scenery.



Passenger Statistics

Passengers using West of England area local stations on weekdays

| Station | 2007 | 2016 | 2017 |
|--|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Yate | 694 | 1446 | 1400 |
| Patchway | 139 | 344 | 410 |
| Filton Abbey Wood | 1958 | 4764 | 4707 |
| Bedminster | 156 | 250 | 356 |
| Parson Street | 108 | 528 | 550 |
| Nailsea and Backwell | 1315 | 2015 | 1970 |
| Yatton | 1192 | 1494 | 1797 |
| Worle | 841 | 1650 | 1677 |
| Weston Milton | 261 | 407 | *407 |
| Weston-s-Mare | 2279 | 2828 | 3066 |
| Keynsham | 839 | 1679 | 1654 |
| Oldfield Park | 841 | 1457 | 1301 |
| Freshford | 89 | 167 | 162 |
| Severn Beach | 135 | 355 | 347 |
| St Andrews Road | 30 | 79 | 81 |
| Avonmouth | 218 | 728 | 695 |
| Shirehampton | 86 | 481 | 447 |
| Sea Mills | 121 | 371 | 349 |
| Clifton Down | 500 | 2111 | 2016 |
| Redland | 264 | 661 | 559 |
| Montpelier | 253 | 1138 | 1043 |
| Stapleton Road sb | 326 | 877 | 973 |
| Lawrence Hill sb | 263 | 870 | 785 |
| Temple Meads sb | 649 | 2589 | 2473 |
| Severn Beach line trains total | 2845 | 10260 | 9768 |
| Stapleton Road nsb | 91 | 503 | 618 |
| Lawrence Hill nsb | 49 | 608 | 613 |
| Stations - Temple Meads - Severn Beach - all trains | 2985 | 11371 | 10999 |

Notes: the figures above are taken from the November weekday count, which was undertaken annually by the West of England local authorities until 2017, 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. No local authority count was carried out in 2018, apart from at the Severn Beach line stations, but the results of this are not available at the date of printing this Report. Once available they will be included in the pdf version of this Report.

nsb = not Severn Beach line Passengers

sb = Severn Beach line passengers

* = fault with camera - previous year figures used

Office of Rail and Road station usage statistics

| West of England | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Avonmouth | 129,860 | 144,110 | 123,932 |
| Bath Spa | 6,134,318 | 6,432,334 | 6,395,694 |
| Bedminster | 92,868 | 93,744 | 91,822 |
| Bristol Parkway | 2,511,016 | 2,499,246 | 2,324,808 |
| Bristol Temple Meads | 10,711,464 | 11,336,806 | 11,350,146 |
| Clifton Down | 672,386 | 764,192 | 692,122 |
| Filton Abbey Wood | 1,021,550 | 1,064,634 | 1,047,756 |
| Freshford | 43,160 | 45,468 | 44,732 |
| Keynsham | 424,032 | 472,630 | 454,164 |
| Lawrence Hill | 157,912 | 170,084 | 151,626 |
| Montpelier | 122,146 | 111,540 | 102,004 |
| Nailsea & Backwell | 476,618 | 504,048 | 507,296 |
| Oldfield Park | 315,070 | 313,230 | 305,390 |
| Parson Street | 126,636 | 145,608 | 138,996 |
| Patchway | 98,296 | 88,008 | 110,632 |
| Pilning | 46 | 230 | 478 |
| Redland | 99,732 | 94,454 | 88,876 |
| Sea Mills | 61,696 | 62,162 | 54,484 |
| Severn Beach | 260,784 | 310,818 | 292,044 |
| Shirehampton | 56,756 | 55,762 | 48,700 |
| St Andrew's Road | 7,374 | 6,522 | 5,516 |
| Stapleton Road | 179,872 | 183,780 | 179,780 |
| Weston Milton | 65,450 | 68,594 | 71,900 |
| Weston-Super-Mare | 1,143,152 | 1,147,152 | 1,145,068 |
| Worle | 299,014 | 321,306 | 322,548 |
| Yate | 368,910 | 392,910 | 385,182 |
| Yatton | 426,246 | 443,806 | 469,210 |
| Total - West of England | 26,006,364 | 27,277,840 | 26,904,906 |

Note: The Severn Beach line has zonal fares, so individual station recorded figures may not be correct. Figures above are from ORR station usage, based on ticket sales allocated LENNON data.

| Wiltshire (selected) | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Avoncliff | 19,948 | 21,016 | 20,519 |
| Bradford-On-Avon | 524,180 | 543,246 | 525,968 |
| Chippenham | 1,815,922 | 1,938,692 | 1,890,896 |
| Trowbridge | 902,966 | 983,704 | 930,134 |
| Westbury | 544,244 | 578,256 | 569,372 |

| Somerset (selected) | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Bridgwater | 312,292 | 344,290 | 346,450 |
| Highbridge & Burnham | 193,462 | 200,196 | 207,186 |
| Taunton | 1,375,546 | 1,433,160 | 1,460,750 |

| Gloucestershire (selected) | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cam & Dursley | 193,640 | 201,188 | 188,918 |
| Cheltenham Spa | 2,178,472 | 2,352,712 | 2,430,434 |
| Gloucester | 1,435,698 | 1,479,538 | 1,477,988 |

Looking Ahead to our work in 2019

The Partnership welcomes the Department for Transport's new Community Rail Development Strategy, launched in November 2018. Our varied programme of activities fits the core pillars of the Strategy, with emphasis on:-

Providing a Voice for the Community

Arranging Passenger Forums for key routes across the region, to include the participation of representatives from Train Operating Companies, Network Rail, and Passenger Focus, local Councillors, rail user groups and wider community groups.

Promoting Sustainable Healthy Travel

Facilitating rail familiarisation visits for primary school pupil pupils and hosting student rail representative groups from local secondary schools.

Walks from the Railway programme led by qualified Walking for Health leaders, including the mapping of accessible routes from key stations.

Linking with groups to enhance waking and cycling routes to stations and improving cycle facilities at stations.

Bringing Communities Together, Supporting Diversity and Inclusion

The continuation of the successful "On the Move" Community Events programme linking with a variety of external organisations and local and national events. On train events are designed to promote the local railway as being socially inclusive and to provide opportunities for connecting with people experiencing loneliness.

Encouraging volunteer station adoption groups to actively invite participation from all sections of their local community. Encouraging local station entries to the Royal Horticultural Societies It's Your Neighbourhood Awards Scheme.

A comprehensive improvement package to improve the environs of Stapleton Road station under Bristol City Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding, with the involvement of the business and residential communities surrounding the station.

Celebrating key milestones including the 90th anniversary of passenger service from Oldfield Park station and 20 years of the Friends of Yatton Station.

Delivering a range of community art schemes at station across the region.

Supporting Social and Economic Development

Attending Train Operator timetabling meetings to highlight gaps in the timetable and helping ensure local services meet the needs of districts experiencing economic and residential growth.

Promoting days out by train, including visits to local attractions, places of interest, business improvement districts and places to eat.

Accounts and Financial statement

Year ended 31 March 2017 -
Balance Sheet

| | £ | £ |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 34,443 | 37,904 |
| | 34,443 | 37,904 |
| Creditors: | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | (874) | (719) |
| Net Assets | 33,569 | 37,185 |
| Total Assets less Current Liabilities | 33,569 | 37,185 |
| Represented By: | | |
| Restricted Reserves | 2,589 | (585) |
| Unrestricted Reserves | 30,569 | 36,600 |
| | 33,569 | 37,185 |

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities: The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

Passengers using local/regional trains in the West of England

| | Calendar year | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cardiff - Bristol - Westbury - Portsmouth/Weymouth | | 9,128,000 | 9,324,000 | 9,168,877 |
| Bristol - Severn Beach | | 1,368,000 | 1,364,000 | 1,162,382 |
| Bristol - Weston-super-Mare - Taunton | | 2,068,000 | 2,129,000 | 2,105,112 |
| Bristol - Gloucester - Great Malvern | | 1,540,000 | 1,558,000 | 1,457,673 |
| Total West of England Local/regional journeys | | 14,104,000 | 14,375,000 | 13,894,044 |

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. The figures for 2018 reflect the considerable line closures due to improvement work.

Year ended 31 March 2017 -
Profit and Loss Account

| | £ | £ |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Turnover | 94,725 | 106,840 |
| Administration Expense | (98,343) | (102,918) |
| Operating Profit / (Loss) | (3,618) | 3,922 |
| Interest Receivable | 2 | 3 |
| Profit / (Loss) on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation | (3,616) | 3,925 |
| Corporation Tax | - | - |
| Retained Profit Brought Forward | 37,185 | 33,260 |
| Balance Carried Forward | 33,569 | 37,185 |

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.

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership

Year ended 31 March 2017 - Income and Expenditure information

| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | 2017-18 | 2017-18 | 2017-18 | 2016-17 |
| Income | Restricted | Unrestricted | Total | Total |
| Contributions from partners | - | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 17,178 | | 17,178 | 10,250 |
| GWR | 20,622 | | 20,622 | 21,200 |
| Avonmouth DCRDF Grant | | - | | |
| Severn Beach Heritage Arts Project | | - | | |
| Arts Council City to Seaside | | | | |
| Montpelier | 204 | - | 204 | |
| Keynsham | 221 | | 221 | |
| Severn Beach Line General | 5,000 | | 5,000 | |
| Somerset (Bridgwater) | 1,500 | - | 1,500 | |
| Bank Interest | | 2 | 2 | |
| | 44,725 | 50,002 | 94,727 | 106,843 |

| Expenditure | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Travel & Subsistence | | 896 | 896 | 965 |
| Salary and payroll costs | | 42,986 | 42,986 | 35,927 |
| Telephone/IT | | 2,970 | 2,970 | 2,908 |
| Postage/stationery/printing | | 250 | 250 | 77 |
| Meetings/Events | | 181 | 181 | 550 |
| Accommodation rental | | 6,594 | 6,594 | 6,912 |
| Accountancy/Audit/Insurance | | 1,337 | 1,337 | 1,259 |
| Miscellaneous | 8,662 | 408 | 9,070 | 4,632 |
| Station improvement work | 30,940 | | 30,940 | 39,164 |
| Research | | | | 8,700 |
| Temple Meads Signal Box Renovation | 2,436 | | 2,436 | |
| Community Placement | | | | 137 |
| School visits | 683 | | 683 | 1,687 |
| | 42,721 | 55,622 | 98,343 | 102,918 |

| Surplus/Deficit For The Year | 2,004 | (5,620) | (3,616) | 3,925 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Transfer between funds | | | - | - |
| Balance brought forward | 585 | 36,600 | 37,185 | 33,260 |
| Balance at 31 March 2017 | 2,589 | 30,980 | 33,569 | 37,185 |

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



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