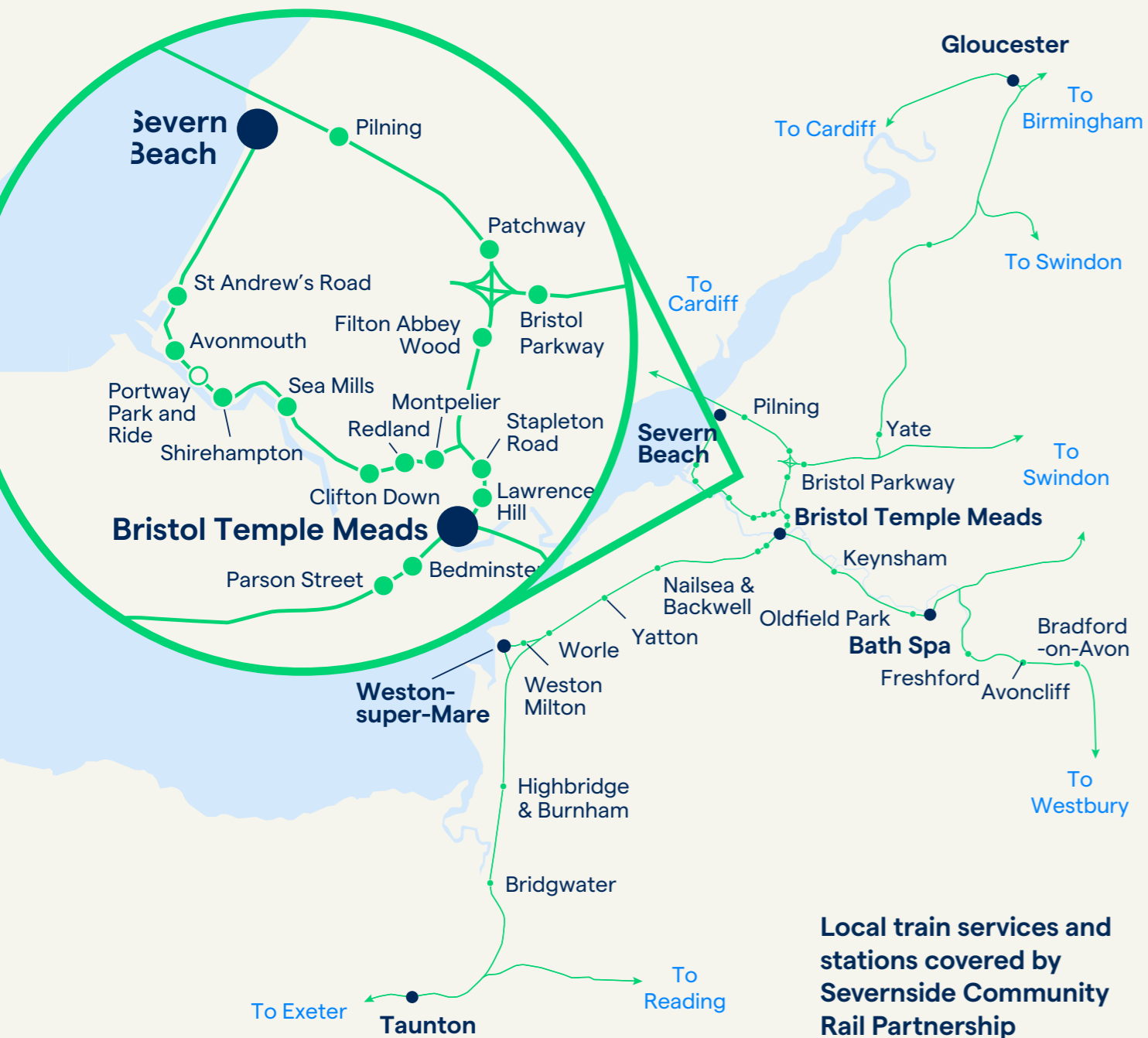


Sevenside
Community Rail
Partnership c.i.c

Progress Report

Published March 2022

Creatively connecting
people and places







Local train services and stations covered by Severnside Community Rail Partnership

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Severnside Community Rail Partnership
 c.i.c c/o GWR, Temple Meads Station,
 Bristol, BS1 6QF

-  [Severnsidecommunityrailpartnership](https://www.facebook.com/severnsidecommunityrailpartnership)
-  [Severnsiderailpartnership](https://www.instagram.com/severnsiderailpartnership)
-  [@SevernsideCRP](https://twitter.com/SevernsideCRP)
-  [Severnside Community Rail Partnership](https://www.youtube.com/SevernsideCommunityRailPartnership)

severnside-rail.org.uk

Welcome to the Severnside Community Rail Partnership

The Partnership has, throughout 2021, again lived with COVID-19. Like all other organisations we have had to rapidly adjust to frequent changes in what we can do, and how best to develop and deliver our activities. Our work continued throughout the year, but again largely home based, while we tried to make the most of periods of - sometimes quite short - relaxation of the Covid restrictions.

But whenever possible, our station adopters were encouraged back to support their local stations, albeit in smaller number than previously, to observe social distancing. Community Payback returned to Stapleton Road, and the Avonmouth Station Food Project continued producing healthy fruit and vegetables for the Community Centre.

New activities have included reaching out to communities in and around Bridgwater to seek their the views on the development of Community Rooms at their station; at Nailsea and Backwell the garden was restored with help from members of the local horticultural society and is now tended by two local families; our largest community art scheme to date was undertaken to transform the Stapleton Road viaduct at Fox Park; we promoted accessible walking and cycling routes in various locations; completed a set of leaflets to encourage days out by train to local destinations offering free or low-cost visitor attractions or open spaces; provided new planters at several stations; and sponsored an initiative on the provision of electronic bus interchange information at stations

Ensuring young people are supported to make safe, sustainable travel choices remains a priority. The Severnside Community Rail Partnership is leading

an innovative Community Rail Education Scheme named 'Platform'; this will provide resources, outreach and rail familiarisation visits for schools and youth groups across the Gloucestershire, Severnside, TransWilts and Worcestershire Partnership areas. Under funding from GWR, Cross Country trains and the Community Rail Network, two fully qualified teachers have been recruited to develop and deliver the programme which is set to launch in April 2022.

You will also notice the Partnership has a fresh new look and a new website. Our re-brand is thanks to a generous grant from Cross Country trains and we believe the vibrant branding conveys a message of our aspirations for a socially inclusive railway.

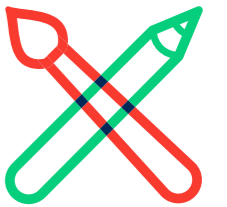
The Partnership is a Community Interest Company. Our running costs and projects receive significant funding by way of grants from Great Western Railway, Cross Country trains, the Community Rail Network and local authorities. Without their support and encouragement, we could not operate and deliver the considerable benefits which are being achieved.

The Partnership's work is overseen by a Board of Directors. Directors are nominated by the Train Operators and Funding Authorities, supplemented by a number of Independent Directors. Expressions of interest to join the Board as an Independent Director are welcome – please contact Keith Walton (address on page 2).

I am very grateful for strong support from Heather Cullimore, the Partnership's Manager; and from Faye Keane our Art co-ordinator, together with our station volunteers and Board members – all of whom are essential to delivering our work.

Keith Walton, Chairman

Community art at the Stapleton Road viaduct



The Severnside Community Rail Partnership is synonymous with vibrant creative community art schemes across our network. Notwithstanding the Covid restrictions we were still able to deliver our most ambitious permanent mural to date – one of the highlights of the Partnership’s achievements during 2021.

Network Rail recently undertook major infrastructure works in the Bristol area including a rebuild of the Stapleton Road viaduct at Fox Park. The structure quickly attracted graffiti tagging and the area became unsightly. Bristol City Council served a penalty notice, instructing prompt cleaning.

We saw an opportunity to invest (for only slightly more than the value of the penalty notice) in local artists to create a mural for the space. The concept aligned with

Network Rail’s Project Sprint initiative to reduce graffiti tagging on the railway network. The eye-catching artwork, themed around the four pillars of the Department for Transport’s Strategy for Community Rail, attracted widespread press and social media attention, and is regarded as a ‘must see’ for visitors to the area. See the transformation [here](#)

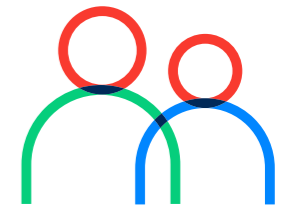
The Partnership has also been involved with the co-ordination of a new mural at Sea Mills station. We await the unveiling

of new artwork at Patchway, Filton Abbey Wood and Nailsea and Backwell stations in spring 2022.

We saw an opportunity to invest (for only slightly more than the value of the penalty notice) in local artists to create a mural for the space.



Getting back on track during 2021



Celebrating station adopters old and new

While the fabric and aesthetics of each station may vary, the dedication and enthusiasm of the 'pink army' of station volunteers and their passion for making their station a welcoming gateway to their community is wonderfully consistent.



Our station adoption family continues to grow; we were delighted to introduce new station adoption projects at Patchway station and at Nailsea and Backwell station - where we have our first ever intergenerational station adoption group tending green space set well away from the platforms. During the year we welcomed our youngest ever station adopters. We also celebrated milestone 90th Birthdays of two station stalwarts - Mike Hodges of the Friends of Bridgwater station and John Irvine of the On-Board group at Oldfield Park station. It was with great sadness we later learned of Mr Hodges' passing and we hope to name a community room at Bridgwater station in his memory.

Apricots in Avonmouth

The 'Secret Garden' food growing project, occupying an area of disused platform at Avonmouth station, continues to produce fruit, vegetables and herbs for the local community centre to share with those most in need. The space is tended by volunteers on a weekly basis under the guidance of the highly skilled team at Incredible Edible Bristol. Encouraged by the wide range of pollinator plants, the garden has become a haven for bees and butterflies, while biodiversity measures include water harvesting, a productive composting unit and a small wormery. A well-planned planting schedule means the garden is providing nutritious fresh produce throughout the seasons. It might sound unlikely, but the talented team at Incredible Edible Bristol have even managed to produce a crop of delicious Apricots!

These were thoroughly enjoyed by members of the Avonmouth Community Centre Association Lunch Club.



Involving young people

While our traditional rail familiarisation visits for primary schools were put on hold under Covid-19 restrictions, the Partnership created new opportunities to engage young people in their local railway. Between 31st August and 3rd September, Bedminster station became a temporary rail terminus while the Bristol East engineering works were in full swing.



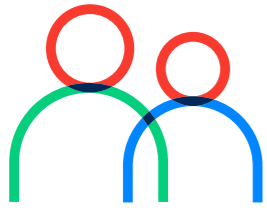
Young people from the Grove Youth Group in Bedminster Down helped to enhance the customer experience by creating colourful directional signage between the station and the rail replacement bus stop. During evening youth group sessions, arrow shaped stencils were designed to illustrate a bus and a train. Just before the rail replacement started, the group visited the station and under the careful supervision of youth group leaders, used their stencils as guidelines to spray their designs on to the pavement using temporary chalk paint. Customers changing between rail

and bus had no problems navigating their way between arrival and departure points and appreciated the vibrant wayfinding markers. The Youth Group members enthused at being invited to be part of a creative project in their neighbourhood. They clearly enjoyed the opportunity for a visit to the station, and the opportunity to make their mark in chalk paint!

“Sometimes customers can be a bit frustrated when they have to change from trains onto buses, but attitudes noticeably changed when we said the wayfinding arrows were the work of schoolchildren. They brought a smile to customers' faces and were just a great help to us.”

Harprit Manku, GWR

During the autumn, students attending Backwell school were supported by Unique Voice - a social enterprise who focus on helping children build emotional resilience and self-belief through performance - to create a film encouraging their peers to make sustainable, healthy travel choices and to feel confident in using the local rail network as they grow their independence.



During a series of workshops, students made story boards, provided input for the script and steered the artistic direction of the film. They also had a lot of fun, especially when filming on location at the Weston-super-Mare Pier! The film, sponsored by the GWR Communities and Education Fund, may be viewed via our [YouTube channel](#) and will be rolled out at more stations during spring 2022.



We also had the privilege of accompanying year six pupils from Hannah More Primary school on a day out by train to visit the Paddington Bear exhibition at the British Library, thanks

to a winning entry to a GWR creative writing competition. This amazing family friendly exhibition delighted pupils with over 50 books, documents, film clips and original artworks of their favourite bear on view. The visit proved to be the first trip to the capital for many of the young people on board and demonstrated the ease of using the rail service to reach opportunities in London.

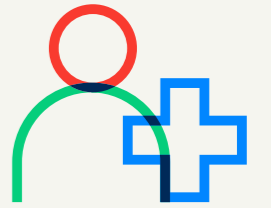
During the inaugural National Community Rail Week, we gathered the views of young people about sustainable transport by visiting local youth groups. The findings of these visits will be used as a basis of our youth engagement for 2022.

Shedding light on passenger information

The Partnership understands the necessity for passenger information at stations to be clearly visible and we secured funding via the GWR Major Project Fund for Solar Illuminated Poster Cases at many of the stations in our area. Installation is complete at Bedminster station and will be rolled out across many more stations before the end of February 2022.



15 years of community payback



In 2006, Severnside Community Rail Partnership was approached by the Probation Service to establish whether offenders handed a community sentence by the courts might be able to assist with projects to improve and enhance local railway stations. An innovative partnership between the two organisations was forged, and fifteen years later, the

local stations and communities they serve, continue to benefit from the scheme.

Under a community sentence, offenders of certain crimes undertake between 40 and 300 hours of Community Payback. This activity is unpaid and should be demanding and designed to give something to local communities, providing offenders with an opportunity to repay the community for the wrong they have done. Offenders assigned to station projects are classified as being low risk to the public.

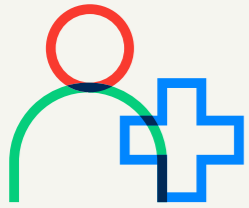
During the early days of the Partnership, many local stations were in a poor condition; supervised groups of around ten offenders were deployed on an ad-hoc basis to clear overgrown vegetation and construct planters from old railway sleepers. The planters were then handed

over to be tended by local volunteers and station adoption groups.

Once stations became in a much better condition, and required less heavy vegetation clearance, more emphasis was placed on environmental enhancement and on improving and ensuring safe working practices. Severnside Community Rail Partnership and local station management teams now agree a programme of activity for up to four offenders to visit local stations and assist with enhancing the environment. Their tasks include implementing biodiversity measures such as ground preparation, sustainable planting, weeding and watering planters. Community Payback groups have recently assisted with the

“This project has given me a connection to the community and a space that I am proud to be a part of.”





Smaller group numbers allow greater opportunities for offenders to learn new skills during their placement, supporting their personal development and increasing opportunities for future employment.

On completion of a placement at the Avonmouth station 'Secret Garden', one service user commented 'This project has given me a connection to the community and a space that I am proud to be a part of.'

Densie Holway, Community Payback Operations Manager said 'Community Payback and Severnside Rail have been working together in partnership for 15 years. From its inception, the aim of the partnership was for the two organisations

to work together jointly to improve the environment that local communities and rail travellers experience.

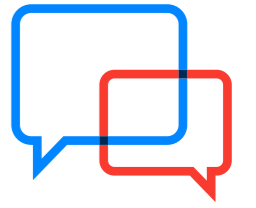
The participants on the Unpaid Work teams have been sentenced in Court to a number of hours that must be worked for the benefit of local communities. Severnside Community Rail has provided opportunities for people on probation to complete a variety of tasks, offering the possibility to learn new skills that will improve chances of employment and reduce re-offending.

As Community Payback looks forward from the pandemic, we are keen to continue our projects, and continue this very positive partnership.'

Around 1400 hours of are spent at stations each year, making the scheme of great value to both the rail industry and the communities each station serves. That is a staggering 21,000 hours of unpaid work spent on projects to enhance local stations.



Looking ahead to our work in 2022

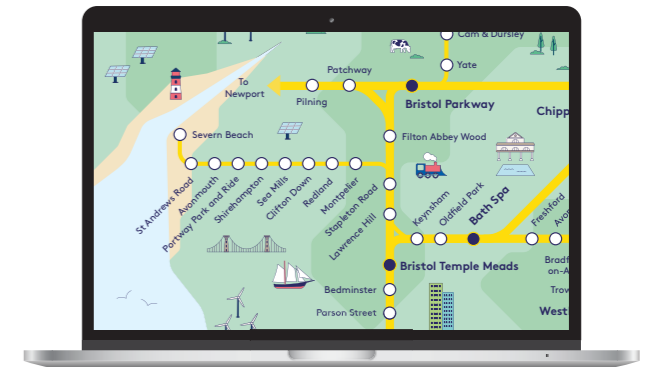


Spring 2022 will bring the completion of a number of schemes delayed by the pandemic. We look forward to installation of new community artwork at Patchway, Filton Abbey Wood and Nailsea and Backwell stations, and the re-landscaping of the St Marks Road entrance to Stapleton Road station. 'On The Train Events' are set to re-start in April with a series of 'CommuniTeas' hosted in collaboration with West Country Crimestoppers.



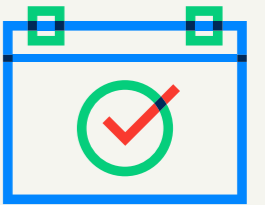
The Platform Education scheme, hosted by the Severnside Community Rail Partnership and also covering Gloucestershire, TransWilts and Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership areas will officially launch in April, offering the first on-line hub for rail related education resources linked to the national curriculum. The Platform Team will offer bespoke classroom sessions and rail familiarisation visits to schools and young people groups across the region, empowering the next generation to make sustainable, healthy choices as they grow independence.

Platform



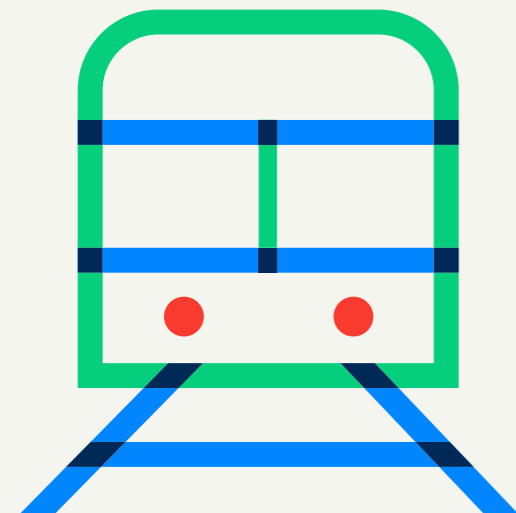
Portway Park and Ride is set to become the first new station to open in the Severnside Community Rail Partnership area since Yate and Worle re-opened over 30 years ago. Scheduled to welcome passenger services by late summer, the new station will complement the bus park and ride facility - making leaving the car and travelling into the city centre or Clifton by rail an attractive new option for many.

Our plans for the year ahead



Providing a voice for the community

- Attending meetings of local rail user groups, transport forums and wider community organisations. Feeding into rail industry and other community transport providers
- Listening to young people engaging in our education programmes, sharing their thoughts and ideas with rail industry partners and wider travel providers



Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel

- Promoting Days Out by Train from local stations to destinations within the region, through a leaflet and social media campaign
- Promoting Walks from the Railway with leaflets and guided walks
- Sponsoring enhanced cycle facilities to be delivered in collaboration with the Severn Ride and Stride project, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council
- Supporting on-going environmental improvements at Stapleton Road station and the adjacent Fox Park Viaduct, including sponsoring weekly visits from Community Payback
- Promoting the opening of Portway Park and Ride station, and encourage community involvement

The Partnership welcomes suggestions for new areas of work which fall within the four key pillars of the Community Rail Strategy.

Bringing communities together, supporting diversity and inclusion

- Supporting existing and new station adopters with their station-based activities and by linking to wider community events and initiatives
- Promoting rail as a means of reaching the diverse range of cultural events taking place within walking distance of local stations across the region
- Hosting special events on trains, designed to introduce communities less familiar with using rail travel to their local service
- Converting a room at Bridgwater station to be available for use by the wider community
- Launching new community designed murals at Patchway, Filton Abbey Wood, Nailsea and Backwell stations. Creating new artwork for Bridgwater station
- Supporting Incredible Edible Bristol to facilitate 'Wellbeing Wednesday' sessions at the 'Secret Garden' food growing project at Avonmouth station and to continue to grow produce for distribution via the Avonmouth Community Centre

Supporting social and economic development

- Monitoring local railway timetables and identifying opportunities as new travel patterns emerge
- Linking with Business Improvement Districts to encourage promotion of local independent traders within close proximity of the rail network
- Promoting small businesses at social enterprises on and around local stations, including the Strawberry Line Café and Cycle Hire at Yatton station, The Coffee Girl at Bradford-on-Avon station, KaffeKop at Keynsham station and Choo Choo Café at Weston-super-Mare station



Passenger statistics

Passengers using West of England area local stations on Weekdays pre Covid¹

West of England stations	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 ²
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 ³	263	870	785
Temple Meads sb	649	2589	2473
Total - Severn Beach line trains	2845	10260	9768
Stapleton Road nsb ⁴	91	503	618
Lawrence Hill nsb	49	608	613
Total - Stations - Temple Meads - Severn Beach: all trains	2985	11371	10999

¹ Figures 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 more recent full local authority counts have been carried out.

² Fault with camera - previous year figures used.

³ sb = Severn Beach line passengers.

⁴ nsb = not Severn Beach line passengers.

⁵ The Severn Beach line has zonal fares, so individual station recorded figures may not be correct. Figures are from ORR Entries and Exits station usage, based on ticket sales allocated LENNON data.

Office of Rail and Road annual station usage statistics⁵

West of England	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Avonmouth	107,752	127,142	46,076
Bath Spa	6,538,056	6,432,812	1,198,501
Bedminster	95,466	104,050	23,974
Bristol Parkway	2,208,904	2,371,812	366,904
Bristol Temple Meads	11,367,652	11,619,360	2,832,828
Clifton Down	628,888	727,774	168,394
Filton Abbey Wood	901,972	976,150	115,624
Freshford	53,368	55,454	13,218
Keynsham	511,642	532,966	87,304
Lawrence Hill	148,606	190,118	66,852
Montpelier	94,684	129,556	42,438
Nailsea & Backwell	497,878	519,574	85,382
Oldfield Park	322,654	359,846	90,958
Parson Street	149,700	173,832	29,702
Patchway	104,078	91,158	12,392
Pilning	458	710	210
Redland	88,338	120,642	33,332
Sea Mills	52,630	58,204	13,108
Severn Beach*	251,994	301,154	98,726
Shirehampton	47,234	55,518	17,454
St. Andrew's Road	4,724	5,728	4,910
Stapleton Road	168,674	205,224	65,772
Weston Milton	82,722	79,060	26,354
Weston-Super-Mare	1,160,960	1,159,564	306,684
Worle	319,048	328,598	81,414
Yate	341,994	341,800	68,562
Yatton	476,586	500,316	101,442
Total - West of England	26,726,662	27,568,122	5,998,515

Wiltshire (selected)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Avoncliff	24,396	23,448	6,088
Bradford-On-Avon	534,086	550,720	117,522
Chippenham	1,972,350	1,937,240	373,482
Trowbridge	933,894	917,458	252,156
Westbury	548,720	557,756	152,216

Somerset (selected)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Bridgwater	365,788	363,828	133,410
Highbridge & Burnham	205,232	212,650	80,236
Taunton	1,531,416	1,585,206	364,244

Gloucestershire (selected)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Cam & Dursley	191,426	225,792	42,818
Cheltenham Spa	2,467,768	2,590,718	462,294
Gloucester	1,520,744	1,546,910	394,698

Passengers making local/regional journeys in the West of England⁶

Station	Calendar Year 2021	% difference Calendar Year 2019 (pre-Covid)
Bristol - Bath -Westbury	1,273,102	-54.2%
Cardiff - Portsmouth long distance	510,573	-54.2%
Severn Beach line	685,958	-51.9%
Bristol - Weston-super-Mare - Taunton	750,637	-45.6%
Bristol - South Wales	944,803	-49.9%
Bristol - Gloucester	673,396	-56.2%
Total West of England local/regional journeys	4,838,469	-52.2%

⁶ 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.

Construction work in progress at Portway Park and Ride station



Accounts and financial statement

Year ended 31 March 2021

Balance Sheet

	£	£
	2021	2020
Fixed assets	-	-
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	169,954	144,791
	169,954	144,791
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	(51,210)	(1,142)
Net assets	118,744	143,649
Total assets less current liabilities	118,744	143,649
Represented by		
Income and expenditure account	118,744	143,649

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.

Year ended 31 March 2021

Profit and Loss Account

	£	£
	2021	2020
Turnover	226,721	245,348
Administration expense	(251,862)	(130,996)
Operating Profit / (Loss)	(25,141)	114,352
Interest receivable	236	574
Profit / (Loss) on ordinary activities before taxation	(24,905)	114,926
Corporation tax	-	-
Retained Profit Brought Forward	143,649	28,723
Balance carried forward	118,744	143,649

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.

These financial statements were approved by the directors on 2 December 2021.

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.

Year ended 31 March 2021 - Income and expenditure information

	£	£	£	£
	Project	General	2020	2021
Income				
Membership Contributions from Partners	-	74,000	74,000	55,000
Cross Country Grant	5,721	7,015	12,736	13,277
GWR Project Grants	79,482	-	79,482	35,998
Community Rail Network Grants	26,730	-	26,730	-
Network Rail Grant	20,000	-	20,000	-
South Glos' Council Project Grant	-	-	-	9,219
Somerset Council Project Grant	-	-	-	1,500
Bristol City Council Project Grant	12,956	-	12,956	127,500
UWE Funding	-	-	-	625
Bank Interest	-	236	236	574
Miscellaneous	817	-	817	2,229
Total	145,706	81,251	226,957	245,922
Expenditure				
Insurance	-	713	713	574
Travel & Subsistence	-	75	75	154
Stationery	-	627	627	215
Payroll Fees	-	657	657	749
Staff Expenses	1,113	-	1,113	1,779
Salaries	-	46,379	46,379	45,664
HM Revenue & Customs	-	11,541	11,541	11,280
Miscellaneous	937	272	1,209	6,253
Gen Act	-	-	-	3,179
Telephone/IT	-	2,750	2,750	4,969
Postage	-	34	34	-
Meetings/Events/Research	6	-	6	2,722
Accountancy/Audit	-	1,275	1,275	1,042
Rent	-	2,255	2,255	7,596
School Visits	-	-	-	503
Repayment to GWR	-	-	-	(15,000)
Small Station Improvements				
Severn Beach Line Stations	87,370	-	87,370	18,895
Other Bristol Local Stations	105	-	105	1,060
Other South Glos' Local Stations	156	-	156	3,471
Bath and NE Somerset Local Stations	24	-	24	428
North Somerset Stations	4,097	-	4,097	1,047
Somerset Stations	-	-	-	126
Community Payback Station Support	426	-	426	240
Severn Beach				
Stapleton Road	-	-	-	23,843
Other work and activities				
Joint CRP Education Project	5,000	-	5,000	-
Build Back Soon Project	33,623	-	33,623	-
Fox Park Project	34,303	-	34,303	-
Other Projects and Activities	1,812	-	1,812	-
Temple Meads Signal Box Restoration	-	-	-	1,532
Total	185,284	66,578	251,862	130,996
Surplus/Deficit for the year				
Balance brought forward	109,764	33,885	143,649	28,723
Balance at 31 March 2021	70,186	48,558	118,744	143,649

Contributions in kind: We are grateful for travel passes provided by Great Western Railway and Cross Contry trains which are not included above.

Milestone celebrations for dedicated station volunteers

The Severnside Community Rail Partnership was honoured to be part of celebrations to mark the 90th Birthdays of two highly dedicated station volunteers.

Age - young or old - is no barrier to being part of the community rail 'family' making a difference across the network.



Michael
Station Garden Volunteer

Find out more about Michael
[BBC Radio Somerset - Facebook](#)



John
Station Garden Volunteer

Find out more about John
[Great Western Railway - Facebook](#)

Community Rail Week visit to Ashley Vale Youth Club



During Community Rail week in October 2021, the Partnership visited Ashley Vale Youth Club

Our principal funders and sponsors



Bath & North East Somerset Council



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Sevenside Community Rail Partnership
c.i.c c/o GWR, Temple Meads Station,
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