

**Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership (DVLGRP)
Minutes of Partnership Meeting
Held at Belper Town Council Offices, Belper, 10th July 2019**

Present:

Cllr Trevor Ainsworth, DCC (TA) (Chair)	Sukie Khaira, Derwent Valley Mills WHS (SK)
Alastair Morley, DVLGRP Partnership Officer (AM)	Martin Gadsby, Peak Rail (MG)
Cllr Garry Purdy, DDDC (GP) (Vice Chair)	Paul Tomlinson, Peak Rail (PT)
Cllr Chris Furness, PDNPA (CF)	John Snell, Wyvernail (JS)
Tim Nicholson, PDNPA (TN)	David Jemmerson, Friends of the Derwent Valley Line (DJ)
Donna Adams, East Midlands Trains (DA)	Cllr Michael Wilderspin, Matlock Bath PC (MW)
Paul Mobbs, East Midlands Trains (PM)	Cllr Russ Boyack, Cromford PC (RB)
Mike Dalton, CrossCountry Trains (MD)	Cllr David Ellsworth, Matlock Town Council (DE)
Paul Webster, ACoRP (PW)	Ian Hooker, Dethick Lea & Holloway PC (IH)
Chris Hegarty, DCC (CH)	Peter White, Derwent Valley Trust (PWh)
Rachel Coates, AVBC (RC)	Ellen Fineran, Derwent Wildlife Trust (EFi)
Ian Mitchell, Campaign for Better Transport (IM)	Edward Funnell, Abellio East Midlands Railway (EF)
Kate Pudney, Belper Station Volunteer (KP)	Chris Darrall, Minutes Secretary (CD)

Apologies:

Andy Jordan, Wirksworth Town Council (AJ)	John Weaver, Friends of the Derwent Valley Line (JW)
Laura Etheridge, East Midlands Trains (LE)	

Min No		Action
12/19	<p>Introductions and Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 apologies were received 	
13/19	<p>Public Participation Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No questions have been received. 	
14/19	<p>Minutes of last Partnership Meeting (4th February 2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These were ACCEPTED. 	
15/19	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min. 5/19: Matlock Bath Level Crossing – GP said that following the closure of the crossing last December, work had been carried out to form a new pedestrian access to the Heights of Abraham from the front of the station, running adjacent to the river and crossing the railway by the existing under-bridge. There will be further work to complete the path later this year. 	
16/19	<p>Abellio East Midlands Railway. Presentation and discussion</p> <p>Edward Funnell, Abellio Stakeholder Engagement Lead, gave a presentation about the new franchise, and answered various questions from the meeting. A copy of the presentation will be circulated with these minutes. He said that Abellio were taking over a well run franchise, making a good base on which to build. Particularly relevant to the Derwent Valley line were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single car class 153 trains would be replaced with 2-car class 156 units within the first 6 months. This is an interim measure pending replacement with refurbished modern units (to be completed by December 2021) • Abellio intends to staff a further 9 stations, based on passenger footfall. Matlock and Belper stations fall within these criteria, and so were planned to be staffed. EF could not say for how many hours a day this would apply. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains from Matlock will run through to Norwich, and trains from Crewe will run through to Newark. • The new franchise will start on Sunday 18th August 2019, and the new timetable changes will come into effect in December 2021, with some improvements to regional Sunday services from December 2020 • EF mentioned that Abellio had sought an additional hourly path between Derby and Crewe, but Network Rail was currently unable to provide this. • GP welcomed the new TOC with more funds and new proposals. He thanked EMT for their great work over the years, and requested that the ‘Station Volunteer’ train name be retained. He said that DDDC wanted to build on tourism with the line; this could include cycle hire from Matlock. • CF asked about hydrogen-powered trains, EF said there was intended to be a trial on the main line. • MW asked if ‘East Midlands Railway’ would be a durable brand. EF replied that the names were specified by DfT and would be used for future franchises. • PT said Peak Rail were keen to discuss staffing offers for Matlock station. • PWh asked about accommodating bikes on trains, EF could not answer this until the actual rolling stock was known. • CF asked about intentions on bus connections; for example the ‘TransPeak’ bus at Matlock misses the train connections in both directions. <p>It was agreed that EF would be invited to attend the next meeting to provide an update.</p>	
17/19	<p>2019/20 Action Plan (plan circulated with Agenda)</p> <p>The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Activity Booklet and Community Rail in the City – The Activity Booklet has been completed and launched. A “Perri the Peregrine” costume has been bought, and was used to promote the Activity Book at “Community Rail in the City days” at Nottingham and Derby, which also featured a falconry display from BB Falconry. These attracted great interest in the line • Whistlestop Centre, Matlock Bath – The refurbishment is now complete, and opened to the public at Easter. The centre (including the café) is now open 7 days a week, from 10.00 to 17.00, and will be extended for the Illuminations period. EFi said it was a very important part of the tourist offering in Matlock Bath, and she invited EF to come and visit. • Matlock Station, enhancement of waiting facilities – Work on the additional glass screen started 3 weeks ago, and should be completed by the end of the month. This should have been completed during the last financial year, and AM thanked funders for their patience. • Passenger Figures – The passenger figures for the whole of 2018/19 are down about 12% on the previous year. This is mainly due to the fact that the line was closed for seven weeks, and only had a partial service for another 5 weeks. The decrease is fairly even across all the stations, apart from Matlock Bath where the decrease is about 28%, due to the fact that there was no train service for much of the period of the Illuminations. The figures do include passengers carried on replacement buses, (where tickets were purchased, but it was recognized that fewer people travelled, and many were not able to purchase tickets). For the first 3 months of the current year (1/4/19 – 22/6/19) the figures are down by about 3% compared with the same period last year. 	

18/19	<p>Partnership Organisation Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecclesbourne Valley Rly - JS said that the company is making a planning application to alter the access from the highway at Duffield, and to include a feature gateway. • World Heritage Site - SK reported that the WHS would be publishing its next Newsletter soon. Previously this had been distributed to all households in the area, but in future greater emphasis would be put electronic versions. She asked if EF could let her have the new branding for East Midlands Railway, so that it could be used in the newsletter. The newsletter would not be published before the new franchise started, but they would need to start printing it very soon. • Ambergate - DJ said that the White Peak Distillery had been established in the old Wire Works at Ambergate. They ran tours, and were keen to add promotional material to the platform at Ambergate station (e.g. plants in old barrels). Also the Pentrich Revolution group wanted to put a leaflet holder on the station giving details of walks etc. Some doubt was expressed about this in relation to keeping it stocked, and preventing minor vandalism. • East Midlands Trains – DA said EMT was inviting all station adopters for a farewell reception on the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway. • CrossCountry Trains – MD said that a new Direct Award had been made for 12 months to October 2020. He thought that core and grant funding would be much as at present, but could not yet confirm this. There is still project funding available until October 2019, with 12 months in which to spend the money. • PW mentioned the value of Community Rail report. Over the last 10 years passenger growth had typically been 35% overall, but for those lines with Community Rail status the growth was around 42%. It was noted that Derwent Valley Line growth was considerably greater than this, with numbers nearly tripling in 10 years. ACoRP currently estimated that around 8,500 local volunteers are involved. GP said that it would be good to know the value of the CRP to the local economy, to encourage Local Authorities with their funding, and he thought the CRP should commission a study to try and put a value on this. EF said this was an area that Abellio would be interested in. 	
19/19	<p>Community Rail Award Entries Submitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entries for Community Rail awards have been submitted in the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cat. 4 (Station Building and Surroundings): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waking up the Whistlestop Whatstandwell disused platform transformation Cat. 7 (Marketing/Communications) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicating Derby Resignalling to Derwent Valley line passengers. Cat. 9 (Tourism and Heritage) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derwent Valley Line Activity Book Cat. 10 (Photo Competition) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photographs of Perri the Peregrine meeting new friends and promoting the new Derwent Valley Line Activity Book. Cat. 11 (Outstanding Volunteer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kate Pudney from Belper Cat. 12 (It's Your Station) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition Belper Station Gardening Volunteers 	

20/19	<p>Community Rail Accreditation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW said DfT Community Rail Strategy changed the way Partnerships are viewed. The designation (or otherwise) of lines was being replaced by accreditation of the organisations, which increased the scope of what could be done under the Community Rail umbrella. The accreditation needs to be completed by March 2020 	
21/19	<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MW asked what was happening about Disabled Access to Duffield station. The proposal to renew the footbridge was deferred by Network Rail, as it said this would be done as part of electrification works. Now that electrification has been cancelled, what is happening about the footbridge? • This is the last meeting to be attended by East Midlands Trains, prior to the end of their franchise. TA paid tribute to EMT, not just to the organisation, but also to the individuals who had been involved with the Partnership, and thanked them for all their work. As a result of their efforts, a great deal had been accomplished by the Partnership during the last 12 years. These thanks were endorsed by the whole meeting. 	
22/19	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 16th September 2019, 13.30 at East Midlands Trains Academy, Derby. This will be the AGM</p>	