

Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership (DVLGRP)
Minutes of Annual General and Partnership Meeting
Whistlestop Education Centre, Matlock Bath Station
18th September 2023

Present:

Cllr Trevor Ainsworth, DCC (TA) (Chair)	John Snell, Wyvernrail (JS)
Alastair Morley, DVLGRP Partnership Officer (AM)	Cllr Richard Walsh, Crich Parish Council (RW)
Kaye Robinson, East Midlands Railway (KR)	John Weaver, FDVL (JW)
David Jones, CrossCountry (DJ)	Cllr Steve Knee, Duffield Parish Council (SKn)
Paul Webster, Community Rail Network (PW)	Sukie Khaira, Derwent Valley Mills WHS (SK)
Andrew Johnston, Amber Valley BC (AJ)	Peter White, Derwent Valley Trust (PWWh)
James Berresford, PDNPA (JB)	Cllr Nigel Weaving, Ripley Town Council (NWe)
Tim Nicholson, PDNPA (TN)	Nigel Carabine, Peak Rail (NC)
Cllr Martin Burfoot, Derbyshire Dales DC (MB)	Cllr Sue Burfoot Matlock Town Council (SB)
David Jemmerson, Ambergate Station Group (DJe)	Megan Carroll, CRP Marketing and Comms. (MC)
Chris Balls, Ambergate Station (CB)	Chris Darrall, Minutes Secretary (CD)

Apologies:

Alexa Stott, East Midlands Railway (AS)	Natasha Wilkinson, Network Rail (NWi)
Chris Hegarty, DCC (CH)	Barbara Marriott, Matlock Station Group (BM)
Cllr Andrew Gregory PDNPA, (AG)	Stuart Marriott, Matlock Station Group (SM)
Cllr Andy Jordan, Wirksworth Town Council (AJo)	

Min No		Action
<u>Annual General Meeting</u> (AM in the chair)		
1	<p>Introduction and Apologies 7 Apologies were received.</p>	
2	<p>Partnership Appointments Chair: Cllr Trevor Ainsworth, proposed RW Vice Chair: Martin Burfoot, proposed TA.</p> <p>Non-funding organisations' representative: John Weaver (FDVL) was proposed These were ACCEPTED.</p> <p>Minutes Secretary: Chris Darrall is moving and will not be able to continue. There was no proposal or volunteer from the meeting, so the role is currently vacant.</p> <p>TA assumed the chair, and thanked the meeting for their support. On behalf of the partnership TA thanked Chris Darrall for over 10 years volunteering as Minutes Secretary and he noted that Garry Purdy, who has been Vice-chair for many years, has retired as a councillor on Derbyshire Dales DC, so is no longer a member of the CRP. On behalf of the meeting, TA thanked him for his work on the CRP. He also thanked Chris Furness who had represented PDNPA for the last 10 years, who has been a great asset to the CRP.</p>	
3	<p>Annual Report 2022/23 (Report circulated with agenda)</p> <p>The report has been printed and circulated, and added to the website</p> <p>The report was NOTED by the meeting. Comments were made that It was a very impressive document.</p>	

Partnership Meeting	
16/23	<p>Introductions and Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Apologies have been received
17/23	<p>Public Participation Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Questions have been received.
18/23	<p>Minutes of last Partnership Meeting (15th May 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies for PW had been omitted from the minutes. With this correction, the minutes were ACCEPTED.
19/23	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min 10/23 – Whatstandwell Station. RW asked regarding the latest position. AM said that the access to the disused platform (from the existing footbridge) was going ahead, but there was no movement on provision of a water supply. EMR are not able to provide this. Suggestions were made for a mobile bowser. TA/RW will liaise on this. • MB commented that the water supply issue at Matlock station had been resolved for Peak Rail. However the state of the buildings, covered with scaffolding, planters contained within, means the station is now very unwelcoming. NC said that Peak Rail were in discussions with ARCHCO and the Heritage Rail Trust for funding to restore the building.
20/23	<p>2023/24 Activity Plan and Partnership Officer's Update (Circulated with the Agenda, including photographs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Plan The updated Activity Plan was noted. • Trains return to Nottingham throughout the Day On Tuesday 20 June, we were joined by representatives of Community Rail Network, Cross Country Trains, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, East Midlands Railway, The Heights of Abraham, Marketing Nottingham, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Visit Nottinghamshire and Visit Peak District and Derbyshire to celebrate the return of hourly trains between Matlock, Derby and Nottingham. The group included Barry Lewis, Leader of Derbyshire County Council, and Councillor John Ogle, chair of Nottinghamshire County Council – and most distinctively dressed, Mrs Brassington, Victorian ambassador for the Heights of Abraham! The group met at points along the line from Matlock to Nottingham Station, where there was an opportunity to network and reflect on the benefits the hourly service will bring to residents, students and visitors to Derwent Valley. As a Community Rail Partnership, we welcome the opportunity to better connect with communities, visitors and stations along the whole line. • Marketing and Communications MC gave a brief presentation showing many of the marketing initiatives that have been delivered. She noted the positive comments received regarding the line and our stations from the EMR Customer Scorecard. MC and AM have been actively promoting the reinstatement of the train service to Nottingham from mid-June onwards, following the 16 days of engineering work 27 May to 11 June:

- Derwent Valley Line leaflet issued mid June, 20,000 copies mostly distributed by DerbyArts in Derby and Derwent Valley, plus Nottingham
- Spondon timetable leaflet -1,000 copies distributed by Friends of Spondon station in schools and in the community.
- Paid for adverts in local community newsletters and magazines along the line and in some publications an accompanying free editorial. Adverts have been part funded by EMR.
- Adverts placed in the following magazines and newsletters:
 - Derby Magazines – Spondon edition*;
 - Duffield Scene*;
 - Belper Boom;
 - All Things Local – Belper edition;
 - Crich Standard*;
 - Wirksworth Community Fayre
 - Peak Advertiser*

* These publications Included a free editorial
- Four “paid for” Facebook promotions by Visit Peak District & Derbyshire to raise awareness to their 76,000 followers and “paid for” feature in monthly e-newsletter emailed to 30,000 email addresses.
- These Visit Peak District and Derbyshire posts and e-newsletter feature generated significantly more coverage than through our own digital media and resulted in considerable spikes in views of the website.
The three facebook posts so far have had a reach of 92,000 – Facebook accounts that have seen the post and 815 engagements – have followed the link from it to our website. The e-newsletter appears to have driven the most users to our website.
- Posting travel ideas, station features and news updates on Derwent Valley Line social media typically two or three times a week.
- New version of the large panel at Derby station is in progress which EMR are designing for the waiting room on platform 4 and 5.
- **AM** has updated the train information for the [Matlock Bath Illuminations website](#)
A request for more carriages for the Illuminations evenings especially firework nights has been submitted to EMR.
- **MC** led on commissioning photographer Lizzie Henshaw to take a variety of photos for publicity and promotional work featuring a young family, Belper adopters as well as various places of interest.

There were several positive comments about the marketing and communications including that it is exemplary and written in a user-friendly manner. There were requests to include the 'leave the car at home' message, promote bus and rail options, and to consider passenger options.

- **Transport and Tourism Information Points**

Double sided totem installed in June outside Belper Bus (on Trentbarton property) station providing bus and rail departures. Funded by Derbyshire County Council local Transport Plan and CrossCountry Trains. The setup is the same as the display on King Street, except promotional bus and rail messages form part of one of the top screens (instead of wayfinding) accompanying bus and rail departures. All the screens have been used extensively to provide information for rail service improvements and disruptions, plus promoting key local events e.g. Belper Pride and Matlock Bath Illuminations.

- **Events**

- **Routes to Remembrance 2023**

For this year's Routes of Remembrance, EMR have been working with their station groups to create a poem. **MC** attended a workshop at Nottingham station with writer Via Macnab to contribute to this.

The completed poem will be displayed at EMR stations in November 2023 and, like last year's artwork project, put on permanent display at Derby and Nottingham.

- **Journey to Net Zero Event**

In June, **AM** hosted a stand for DVLCRP & HP&HVCRP at Derbyshire County Council's Climate Change event attended by staff and Council members.

- **Community Rail Week**

For Community Rail week we hosted an event sponsored by CMAC to engage station adopters from Beeston, Attenborough and Long Eaton about the CRP and the reinstatement of the Nottingham to Matlock service. The day started with a station visit at Beeston followed by a train ride to Matlock Bath for lunch and presentations by the CRP, CMAC and Community Rail Network. CMAC are the UK's leading provider of transportation and accommodation solutions including bus replacement services and provision of taxis for train crew.

- **Station Adoption Activities**

- **Belper Station Mosaic**

Fantastic progress has been made on creating the new mosaic for Belper station. Transition Belper's Richard Bett Artist Creator Maker www.RichardBett.com has been leading on this with support from Kate Pudney, Terry Conn and other adopters. Eight community participation workshops have been held, with over 50 attendees creating the new design (based on the original mosaic). The new mosaic will use more durable materials comprising anodised aluminium base and sustainable thermoplastic used for road markings. Several sessions have been spent on site with Kevin Knight, EMR Station Service Technician working with Richard and station volunteers to remove the old mosaic, carefully measure for the new aluminium base, carry out a test fitting of the new base. The first stage of fitting the new mosaic will take place on 13 September, the funders logos will be installed following this and an unveiling event will then be held.

The Partnership has obtained grants from Community Rail Network and EMR towards this project to provide match funding to those obtained by Transition Belper from Belper Town Council and Cllr John Nelson's Derbyshire County Council Community Leadership fund.

- **New Planters at Ambergate, Duffield and Whatstandwell**

The Partnership was successful in gaining £2,500 for new self-watering fence planters for Ambergate, Duffield and Whatstandwell. These have done well at Duffield and Whatstandwell but unfortunately, at Ambergate the drainage of some of the planters has become blocked, it appears from the recycled peat-free compost used.

- **World Cup of Stations - Ambergate shortlisted**

48 stations were shortlisted by railway historian and TV presenter Tim Dunn for this year's World Cup of Stations. This included Ambergate entered by EMR, though a CRP entry for Belper did not make the shortlist. Rail Delivery Group held a public vote in Community Rail Week, in which Ambergate finished second in the East Midlands regional heat. A World Cup of Stations shortlisted certificate, funded by an EMR community grant, is now installed at Ambergate station to recognise the volunteers' efforts.

- **Whatstandwell Disused Platform Access**

Network Rail's final design is in the process of going to their Project Engineer and then Asset Engineer for sign off. Work on the layout regarding the lighting column needing to be moved is also taking place. Once there has been internal sign off stage for the design, Network Rail will be in touch regarding this and next steps/process around the planning submission.

- **Cromford station**

It is pleasing to see Russ Boyack, Cromford station group and Parish Council lead, continue his recovery from his hospital operation. The group continue to maintain planters and gardeners around the station. Three trees which had been a concern for a few years including dead elm and conifers in poor condition have been removed by Network Rail. The adopters were able to obtain the woodchip from the contractors which they will use on their large bee friendly planters in the autumn.

- **Presentation to Garry Purdy**

Garry was thrilled to receive the photographic montage to thank him for his 15 years as Chair and Vice Chair of the CRP. **AM** presented this at a Cromford volunteer session in August, Garry continues as a station adopter at Cromford.

- **Matlock Bath**

The small group of volunteers replanted their planting barrels for the summer but, are in need of new members to maintain them and the small garden area. **MC** has issued an appeal on social media and a poster produced for the Parish notice boards, but no else has yet come forward.

- **Matlock station**

There has been no progress to date with any works to repair the roofs of the station buildings. It is understood that Peak Rail who are responsible for the condition of the buildings continue to be in discussion with their landlord ArchCo. The whole area of the station and surrounds consist of two poorly maintained station buildings, the unoccupied former Station Master's House owned by DDDC as well as having been subject to the impact of the river repair works, meaning the bus interchange, Derwent Way and adjacent area have been closed off since August 2022. Now the river works are completed, Derwent Way has reopened with a temporary northbound bus stop for the 6.1 and Transpeak buses, with work ongoing to reinstate pavements and one-way traffic over the river bridge. The station volunteers have been frustrated by the ongoing situation which makes the station look rundown and the impact this has had on their activities. This includes that three of their planters are an eyesore as they are inaccessible behind scaffolding and that they have been unable to carry out their usual planting displays due to a loss of a water supply for around six months, has severely impacted their efforts to make at least part of the station, welcoming to passengers.

After considerable correspondence with Peak Rail, volunteers from the Derwent and Wye Valley Railway Trust (DWVRT) got the water leak fixed in August. The CRP on behalf of DWVRT has gained funding for more self watering style barrel planters for Platform 2 at Peak Rail. The payment for this funding has been approved by DCC, but awaits confirmation of setup on the DCC financial system. **AS** and **AM** recently met with the station adopters to discuss ways to improve the platform area. It was agreed to remove the old fence planters and aim to relocate the inaccessible planters. **AS** is going to discuss with Network Rail, getting them

	<p>moved and seeing if some more hoarding with some form of attractive welcome to Matlock can be put over the scaffolding. The entrance fencing is also in a very poor state and needs replacing by EMR or Network Rail. AM got Kevin Knight from EMR to remove the old fence planters and covered some of the unsightly fencing with an additional Derwent Valley Line information panel, this has at least somewhat smartened up the main entrance in the interim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stations, Social and Commercial Development Plan (SSCDP) Funding Bids AM submitted SSCDP funding bids requesting EMR to deliver the following projects in 2024/25: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matlock CCTV • Whatstandwell CCTV • Cromford - Replacement lighting (2 columns) on station approach • Whatstandwell zero carbon project • CIS for Cromford, Whatstandwell, Ambergate, Duffield and Spondon – have asked if these may be being funded through a different EMR fund. • Defibrillators for Cromford and Matlock • Other Derbyshire station proposals: New shelters with seating for Willington; fixing of the water supply at Ilkeston; CCTV, CIS and platform seating for Langley Mill. 	
<p>21/23</p>	<p>Partnership Organisations' Updates (Circulated with the agenda)</p> <p><u>East Midlands Railway</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seatfrog update Since Seatfrog launched with EMR, over 25,000 customers have used the service and over the last six months customers have saved up to 60% on the price of a 1st class ticket. • Accessible journey planning EMR has unveiled virtual tours of stations, to assist with journey planning particularly for those who feel anxious or have disabilities. The tours currently include Derby, Sheffield, Nottingham, Lincoln and Kettering are designed to help people travel with confidence. They have been meticulously mapped using 360-degree photography, allowing users to virtually navigate through all public spaces. • Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T-3 Industry Measures EMR's new performance target, set by the Department for Transport, is to run services to the Time to 3 (T-3) measure. This replaces the traditional performance measure of PPM (Public Performance Measurement). T-3 measures if a train is within two minutes and 59 seconds of its scheduled arrival time at every station. If the service is not within the two minutes and 59 seconds of the scheduled time when it departs from the origin station or arrives at each station on the route, the service will be classed as late under the new measure. The crucial difference to the previous measure is that every station counts equally, not just the destination station. EMR's T-3 in the current reporting period is 74.9% 	

- **Fleet**

The Class 170 fleet cascade continues, with many of the regional services now operated using this rolling stock. The Class 158 units have been retained to operate on the Liverpool-Norwich route. All Class 156s and 153s have now left EMR.

The first Aurora is now at Network Rails Rail Innovation & Development Centre to start training.

- **Funding**

- **Core Funding**

The CRP core funding for 2023/24 has been confirmed and this should now be with all CRPs.

- **Community Fund**

EMR's Community Fund for the April 2023-March 2024 funding year is now open. It is currently only open to applications from CRPs and formally constituted station adopter groups. We are awaiting clarification from the Department for Transport on whether funding applications can be accepted from community groups and charities that are based near EMR stations. More information can be found here:

<https://www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk/community-fund>.

- **Stations**

- **World Cup of Stations**

Thanks to AI for organising the bid and getting the certificates installed at the stations.

- **SSCDP 2023/24 Projects**

We are awaiting the final go ahead from the DfT for these projects to start (and be complete) by March 2024.

- **Timetables/Engineering Work**

Details of the December 2023 timetables have now been confirmed. These are now live in journey planners here: [Train timetables | EMR \(eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk\)](https://www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk/train-timetables)

- **Other**

- **Industrial Action**

Further strike action has been announced by the ASLEF on 30 Sept and 4 Oct with Action short of a strike will take place on 29 September and 2 to 6 October.

We are providing our usual detailed updates to stakeholders confirming the level of service we are able to provide, if any. Information will also be provided on our website: <https://www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk/rail-strike>.

- **Routes of Remembrance**

This will take place on Friday 10th November. CRPs and station adopter groups are once again invited to support the day either at stations along the route or by attending the service at Derby.

A poem has now been created and will be placed at Stations along the line – Megan took part and created a lovely verse.

- **Community Rail Awards**

Now open for entries – we are looking to enter a collaborative piece around our joint art project for Routes of Remembrance last year.

DCC Sustainable Travel Team

Derbyshire's CRPs are now part of the Sustainable Travel team, managed by Dan McCrory, who is relatively new in post. The team includes walking, cycling, school and business travel. AI is hosting the first in person team meeting at the Whistlestop Centre on 12 September and will be giving a presentation about the CRP. It is hoped that closing work will be achieved within the team.

Peak Rail

Peak Rail continues to build on its operations after problems caused by the Covid Pandemic. During the Summer months and early Autumn we have been running services on weekends and Wednesdays. The trains have been well supported especially the Wednesday ones, our policy of "Kids Go Free" for each adult paying has been well received by visitors. The new operating system running out of the Matlock station, agreed with Network Rail, operating with one loco has reduced the fuel bill considerably.

The Railway is in a far better position for locomotives than it has been for years. The Palatine Afternoon Teas on Saturdays have been an amazing success. We have also involved the services of a third-party group who hire the train and fully organise events such as Paddington Bear & Peter Rabbit. The Railway has recently increased its variety of loco power by obtaining a Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) which when running will provide an hourly service to Matlock, a very economical unit to run.

Having organised a successful joint Diesel gala with Ecclesbourne Valley Railway the relationship between the two Railways has resulted in the steam loco "Cathryn" moving to Peak Rail and, after some mechanical work and a repaint, it is now running regularly.

CrossCountry Trains

DJ said that the full Nottingham – Birmingham service is to be restored from December this year, and that XC aspired to reintroduce the full Reading – Newcastle service in the next 2 years. Proposals were being formulated for the refurbishment of the 170 (Turbostar) fleet

Peak District National Park

JB said that options and policies for the future are being discussed. It was hoped to employ a Sustainable Travel Officer soon.

Derbyshire Dales District Council

MB reported that the local plan is now being discussed

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway

JS said that EVR had had a successful summer, and a Harry Potter day is being held at Wirksworth on 8th October.

World Heritage Site

SK mentioned the Derbyshire Georgian Festival that is being held his autumn. Also, the interpretation board is soon to be installed at Belper station.

	<p><u>Community Rail Network</u></p> <p>PW said that there was still some funding available for suitable projects. He noted that Rail Minister Huw Merriman had been visiting some CRPs and seeing the difference that they make, which should give a positive impression for funding to continue. A new Community Rail Network website is to be launched soon.</p>																																				
22/23	<p>Train Service Punctuality and enhancement options to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train service performance since reinstatement of services to Nottingham <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Start</th> <th>End</th> <th>Time to 3 mins</th> <th>Time to 15 mins</th> <th>Cancellation</th> <th>Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>28/5/23</td> <td>24/6/23</td> <td>66.12%</td> <td>96.47%</td> <td>4.13%</td> <td>Line closed for engineering work</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>25/6/23</td> <td>22/7/23</td> <td>80.36%</td> <td>98.42%</td> <td>2.44%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>23/7/23</td> <td>29/8/23</td> <td>76.62%</td> <td>98.62%</td> <td>2.10%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>20/8/23</td> <td>19/9/23</td> <td>81.43%</td> <td>98.64%</td> <td>1.70%</td> <td>Data to week 3 (9 Sep)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested improvements to be considered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All trains to call at Spondon and Attenborough? Sunday services to call at Spondon? Hourly Sunday service? Should the Sunday service operate at same times as rest of the week? 	Period	Start	End	Time to 3 mins	Time to 15 mins	Cancellation	Notes	3	28/5/23	24/6/23	66.12%	96.47%	4.13%	Line closed for engineering work	4	25/6/23	22/7/23	80.36%	98.42%	2.44%		5	23/7/23	29/8/23	76.62%	98.62%	2.10%		6	20/8/23	19/9/23	81.43%	98.64%	1.70%	Data to week 3 (9 Sep)	
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23/23	<p>Community Rail Awards 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following entries are to be made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belper station mosaic Marketing of restored train service Heights of Abraham promotion <p>Entries close on 9th October</p>																																				
24/23	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MB noted that the Matlock footbridge artwork project is being progressed. AJ said that the A38 junction works were being reconsidered for development, and this offers an opportunity to get people to use the train instead. 																																				
25/23	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 14.00 on Microsoft Teams. 																																				