




Activity Plan for: 3 Counties Connected Community Rail Partnership: 2022/2025**Version / Revision Date: January 2023****Section 1: Introduction**

Name of CRP	3 Counties Connected Community Rail Partnership
Date Range Covered by this Activity Plan	January 2022 – March 2025
Lead CRP Officer Name	Josie Rayworth
Lead CRP Officer Contact Details	Josie.rayworth@3countiesconnected.org.uk 01978 757 524 07939583985
Details of CRP Website and/or Social Media Channels	   https://www.3countiesconnected.org.uk
Description of Community Rail Partnership	<p>The 3 Counties Connected Community Rail Partnership covers the rail services along the line of route between Chester - Shrewsbury – Crewe via Wrexham operating across the Wales and England Border, covering the local authorities of Cheshire West & Chester, Wrexham County Borough and Shropshire Council.</p> <p>As an unincorporated association, the 3 Counties Connected Community Rail Partnership has no separate legal status, and thus relies on its members for its legal powers, e.g., by agreeing that one of the members shall act as designated management authority for such purposes. Membership of the 3 Counties Connected Community Rail Partnership will be influenced on the project assistance required for delivery of our business plan and will be reviewed annually in accordance with the business plan. The Partnership is a non-campaigning, non-party political organisation and therefore political parties are not eligible for membership.</p> <p>Structure & Current Membership:</p> <p>The Steering Group</p> <p>The strategic direction of the partnership will be provided by a steering group comprising one representative nominated by each of the following organisations, which are either hosting the partnership (either as a CIC or local authority etc.) or have provided substantive financial or in-kind resources to the Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwork North Wales (Host)

- Wrexham County Borough Council (Contributor)
- Shropshire Council (Financial Contributor)
- Cheshire West & Chester (Financial Contributor)
- Transport for Wales (Financial Contributor)
- Network Rail (NOT a financial contributor but as the infrastructure provider is instrumental in the delivery of our business plan)
- British Transport Police (Stakeholder)
- Avanti West Coast Rail (Financial Contributor)
- Community Rail Network (Stakeholder)

The Stakeholder Group

Stakeholder group meetings will take place at least twice a year (one of which shall be the Annual General Meeting of the partnership). Further meetings may be arranged with the agreement of the chair. No fewer than 7 days written notice shall be given of meetings. The notice shall set out the business to be considered.

- Groundwork North Wales (Host)
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- Cheshire West & Chester (Financial Contributor)
- Transport for Wales (Financial Contributor)
- Severn Dee Travel (Stakeholder)
- Network Rail (NOT a financial contributor but as the infrastructure provider is instrumental in the delivery of our business plan)
- Shrewsbury Chester Rail Users Association (Stakeholder)
- British Transport Police (Stakeholder)
- Cambrian Heritage Railway (Stakeholder)
- Avanti West Coast Rail (Financial Contributor)
- Community Rail Network (Stakeholder)
- VisitEngland (Stakeholder)
- Llangollen Heritage Railway (Stakeholder)
- Station Adopters (Stakeholder)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GwLlangollen CIC (Stakeholder) • Brymbo Enterprise Centre (Stakeholder) • Walliwch (Stakeholder) • Housing Justice (Stakeholder) • Thomas Brassey Society (Stakeholder) • Oswestry Station Buildings Trust (Stakeholder) • Artspace Nantwich (Stakeholder) • Rainbow Trust (Stakeholder) • Wrenbury Model Railway Club (Stakeholder) • Wrexham Art Collective (Stakeholder) <p>Funding & Financial Management</p> <p>The Financial Contributors shall form the Financial Management Group and all financial decisions shall be the responsibility of the Financial Contributors alone. All funding held by the accountable body, will be ring fenced and ensure that sufficient funding is drawn down to ensure the salary, overheads and expenses of the 3 Counties Community Rail Partnership Officer are covered.</p> <p>Only the residual funding will be available for line plan activities which the Financial Contributors alone can agree.</p>
<p>Strategic Aims and Objectives of the CRP</p>	<p>The overall aim of the 3 Counties Connected Community Rail Partnership is to connect our communities with their railway, delivering social benefit and increasing rail use within this area by strategic activities which:</p> <p>Strategic Aims of the 3 Counties Connected Community Rail Partnership</p> <p>1.1 To develop the Chester – Shrewsbury - Crewe Railway line as a community railway with a high level of community involvement, attractive station facilities, good co-ordination with other forms of transport and a service that meets the needs of local people and visitors and in so doing provides value for money for passengers.</p> <p>1.2 To develop links with Community Rail Partnerships in Wales and the UK.</p> <p>Strategic Objectives of the 3 Counties Connected Community Rail Partnership</p>

	<p>The 3 Counties Community Rail Partnership is a vital link between communities, we want to take opportunities to further strengthen the role of Community Rail Partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 The development of a strong identity. Developing a Marketing & Promotion strategy. 2.2 Reflect the voice of users / community outreach. 2.3 Promote Rail Services and Facilities. Develop the Promoting and managing of an improvement plan. <p>DfTs Community Rail Strategy supports community rail organisations themselves to flourish as inclusive, independent, and sustainable groups so they are well placed to deliver the strategy's key pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing a voice for the community 2. Promoting sustainable, healthy, and accessible travel 3. Bringing communities together and supporting diversity and inclusion 4. Supporting social and economic development <p>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Prosperous Wales 2. A Resilient Wales 3. A More Equal Wales 4. A Healthier Wales 5. A Wales of Cohesive Communities 6. A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Welsh Language 7. A Globally Responsible Wales <p>The 3 Counties Connected Community Rail Partnership will review the aims and priorities on an annual basis.</p>
<p>TOCs and Partners involved with delivery of the CRP</p>	<p>Melanie Lawton- Community Rail Strategy Lead Transport for Wales 029 2105 1493 Melanie.lawton@tfw.wales</p> <p>Nick Smith- Regional Growth Manager – Liverpool and Wales, Avanti West Coast, Partnership & Strategy Directorate, 6th Floor Rail House, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool, L1 1JF. 077956 16958 nick.smith@avantiwestcoast.co.uk</p>

	<p>Hanna Clarke- Group Head of Marketing -Groundwork North Wales, 3-4 Plas Power Rd, Tanyfron, Wrexham, LL11 5SZ 01978 757 524 Hanna.Clarke@groundworknorthwales.org.uk</p>
<p>Major Infrastructure or Operational issues affecting the CRP Line(s) which could affect its ability to deliver activities over the next 12/18 months</p>	<p>New rolling stock to be introduced in 2022 with increased seating capacity 202 (2 car) or 316 (3 Car) and more cycle spaces.</p> <p>Service opportunities and challenges including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doubling of the frequency of weekday Shrewsbury to Chester services from December 2022 and Sunday service frequency from 2025. Reduction in the Shrewsbury to Chester journey time from 54 minutes to 50 minutes from December 2022. • Investment in Chester Station to upgrade the concourse, interchange and car park. • Retail enhancement schemes at Chester and Shrewsbury Stations. • Investment in discussed space and buildings in Shrewsbury to bring them into usable condition. • Investment in Wrexham General station to improve the multi-modal interchange. • Shortage of trains due to stock upgrades • TfW Real Social Network campaign, a multimodal transport campaign encouraging more people to walk, cycle, wheel and use public transport. • TOC disputes with trade unions resulting in strikes.
<p>Number of Hours of CRPO time available</p>	<p>Full time – 37 hours per week</p>

***Progress KEY:** (Red = Immediate attention, Orange = On target, Green = Completed, Purple = Planned, not started, Blue = On hold, Black = Long term scheme)

No.	Main Objective or Activity	Specific Tasks and Initiatives	Link to DfT / CRP strategic aims	Expected <u>outcome</u> and how we will measure that it has been a success	Delivery date, size, Progress Key	Lead by	Resources required e.g. staff, funding, volunteers, cost, in-kind, partners.	Ongoing progress update, comments and timescale or completion date of successful activity
Project 1	Wales and Borders Tourism Project	Work with local stakeholders to develop a Tourism Strategy or a series of deliverable projects that will encourage visits.	DFT- 1,2,3,4 CRP- 1.1,2.1, 2.2,2.3 WBFG- 1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Wales on Rails		CRO	All CRO 11 Heritage Steam Trains Walesonrails.co.uk Wellbeing walks from station Ramblers Cymru Walkabout Wrexham Groundworks West Midlands	<p>Llangollen Heritage Railway Wool Felting Workshops delivered Nov 2022</p> <p>Brymbo Heritage project, mural being made to display in enterprise centre. 17 participants as part of the project taken on train trip to Shrewsbury to encourage sustainable travel and tourism.</p> <p>Working with Heart of Wales CRO as part of the 175 anniversary of the Chester to Shrewsbury line.</p> <p>Lantern parade, funding delivery of schools and community lantern projects as part of the 175 anniversary. Contracting in local community artist.</p> <p>Groundwork West Midland have put together a proposal to present to the partnership. Theory of change document to be completed.</p> <p>Walkabout Wrexham delivered a walk for 28 people on the 16th August and will deliver their next one on the 18th October.</p>

									<p>Walk delivered from Chirk station on the 22 May 2023. Further walks planned for the year because of successful delivery and uptake. New volunteer recruited.</p>
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									<p>Chester to Shrewsbury 175th anniversary line celebration.</p>
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Project 2	Promote confidence to travel independently.	<p>Taking groups out on the trains for days out. To improve confidence to travel independently, get out their comfort zones and try new activities.</p> <p>Groups in mind: young adults Luncheon groups. Families/young mums and kids.</p> <p>Planned activities in new places (e.g., litter picks, museums, scavenger hunts, photography).</p>	DFT- 1,2,3,4 CRP- 1.1,2.2,2.3 WBFG - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Verbal and written feedback and evaluations from the group attendees. Regular attending from the individuals. They become more confident to take trips independently.		CRO and TfW - Sian	CRO Rainbow Centre, Brymbo Enterprise Centre, Llangollen Heritage Railway, Sian TfW	<p>Marchweil Makers, planned and delivered a trip to the Create and Craft Show Birmingham 23rd June.</p> <p>Planning multi model Brymbo stitching history trip to Llangollen Railway TBC</p> <p>Brymbo Enterprise Centre multi model trip. From Wrexham to Shrewsbury Museum, delivered for 17 participants. The group are keen to go out on future trips, we are planning a trip to Chester market Dec 2023</p>

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Project 3	Station Improvements. Art Projects - Wrenbury, Nantwich and Wrexham General	<p>School visits to promote rail safety and learn about sustainable travel and their local environment.</p> <p>School visits to train stations – including artwork/maps based on rails ways. e.g. taking clip boards and drawing the key features of a train/railway.</p> <p>Could be extended to small trips out on the train depending on funding.</p>	CRP- 1.1 DFT- 1,2,3,4 WBFG - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7	<p>Wrenbury -Will fit into Welsh National Curriculum about ‘Their Local Environment/Area’. To have been into a select number of schools surrounding the stations all along the lines.</p> <p>Children to be more informed about trains, railway safety, the importance of using public transport.</p> <p>Wrexham will be about ‘sense of place’ linking in with community groups to give them a voice and show pride and ownership of their heritage, culture and landscape.</p>	Installation of artwork Wrenbury September 2023	CRO TfW Community	CRO Station Adopters TfW Wrenbury Nantwich and Wrexham Schools Walliwch Youth Justice Sophia Leadil (artist) Cathy Williams (artist) Joe Bickerton WCBC	<p>Wrenbury School approached; community art tutor sourced. engaged with station adopters, currently in planning process dates to be agreed with head.</p> <p>Artist Brief completed and presented for both Wrenbury and Wrexham</p> <p>Schedules completed for delivery; Wrenbury artwork will be installed by the end of September 2023.</p> <p>Wrexham Artwork will be in situ by end of October 2023</p> <p>Nantwich is in planning phase, artist, station adopters and CRO have met on site. workshops being delivered from mid-September 2023 in two local schools.</p>

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Project 4	Community Fund	Community Grant Fund designed to support the resilience and sustainability of community organisations.	CRP- 2.1,2.2 DFT- 1,3,4 WBFG - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Community organisations sustained or the future with continued services and benefits for their communities.	31 July 2024	CRO Groundworks	Groundworks North Wales CRO TfW Avanti Chair	Grant applications made and funds in place to deliver the Community Fund. Groundworks North Wales to be administering the 3 Counties Connected Community Fund Application Process.
Project 5	Sustainable Travel and Tourism	To increase the benefits and to reduce the negative impacts caused by tourism for destinations. This can be achieved by: Protecting natural environments, wildlife and natural resources when developing and managing tourism activities. Enhancing station environments. Promoting the positive impacts to the environment by using public	CRP- 2.1,2.2 DFT- 1,3,4 WBFG - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Strengthened community's links to the railway. Local economies supported. Health and well-being improved. Increased number of events and celebrations		CRO	Visit England This is Wrexham WCBC Shropshire Council Cheshire and West Council Mid Cheshire CRP North Cheshire CRP Heart of Wales CRP Wales on Rails	Website audit in progress. Researching asset base along the line. Identified seasonal activities to link in with.

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		transport. Highlighting destinations, walks and experiences to be enjoyed along our lines. Linking in with organisations along the lines.						
	Marketing and Communications	<p>Create a brand identity</p> <p>Create and update a website</p> <p>Create and update social media channels</p>	CRP- 1.1, 2.2,2.3 DFT- 2,3 WBFG- 5	<p>Deliver a logo, website and social media presence.</p> <p>Provide analytics to monitor activity and engagement.</p>	Oct 2022	CRO	Groundwork Marketing Team CRO	<p>3 Counties Connected. Website and logo designed. Website has been launched and pages added.</p> <p>Branded uniform purchased.</p> <p>Event Leaflets designed and printed to promote events and projects.</p> <p>Social Media Management outsourced to Groundworks North Wales Marketing Team</p>
	Engage with station adopters volunteers	<p>To meet with station adopters 3 times per year for check in and catch up..</p> <p>Gain access to funding to assist adopters with</p>	CRP- 1.1, 2.2, 2.3 DFT -1 ,3 WBFG -3, 5, 6	Strong relationships formed and additional funding sourced to support new projects. CRPO will take part in projects offering support when needed.	Ongoing	CRO	CRO Station Adopters TfW Avanti	<p>I have engaged with station adopters from all the stations on our lines at the annual station adopters' conferences held in Shrewsbury and Wrexham.</p> <p>Regular meet ups with Friends of Chirk planning and delivering</p>

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		current/ new project ideas.						<p>the 175th Anniversary celebrations.</p> <p>Involving and keeping Wrenbury station adopters updated about project, on site visits.</p> <p>Working with Station Adopters at Nantwich Station on the Waiting Shelters Art Project.</p>
	Familiarisation with stations, staff and lines	<p>Time set aside to travel both the lines to become familiar with stations, facilities, and staff.</p> <p>To introduce to colleagues on trains and at stations as well as partners such as Network Rail and BTP. Familiarisation of stations and communities will support ideas for local projects and organisations to link with.</p>	CRP 1.1	CRPO to have strong relationships with colleagues internally and externally which will add bring added benefits to future collaboration and project outcomes. Knowledge of both lines will benefit CRPO in role	Feb 2023	CRO	CRO TfW- Sian Avanti- Nick BTP- Emma Network Rail Groundwork	<p>Meeting with CRPO's, working on 175th anniversary with he Mid and North Cheshire CRPO's. Working with station staff delivering seasonal activities such as Christmas, Valentines Day and St Davids Day.</p> <p>Regularly meeting on Teams and in person- all those involved in lines, town councils, steering groups etc.</p>
	Develop links with other CRPO's	Regularly join in on 'check in and catch	CRP- 1.2 & 3.2 DFT- 3	Projects and ideas can be shared and		CRPO	All CRO's Claire Williams	Regular CRPO meetings attended via zoom until

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	across Wales and UK	up' with other CRPOs across Wales. Contributing to the agenda and feeding into group discussions.	WBFG- 5	implemented. Relationships will become stronger, thus creating a strong network of CRPOs across the country.			Claire Williams Karen William Marina Farey Steve Ford Rebecca Butcher	<p>restrictions are eased and travel is allowed.</p> <p>Attend Community Rail Network conference.</p> <p>Regular meetings with other CRPOs and helping out projects across the lines e.g., planting at Wrexham and Chester station</p> <p>CRO's from Mid and North Cheshire CRP's working together on Christmas Tree at Chester Station and a series of engagement activities Dec 2022</p> <p>Working with Mid and North Cheshire CRPO's on the 175th Anniversary celebrations, delivering an event at the Queens hotel and designing a commemorative poster for Chester Station.</p>

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	CRPO Skills Development (Mandatory Item per staff member)	To attend webinars and training courses to upskill. Areas to focus on include Bid Writing Community Engagement, social media and Website updating.	CRP- 1.1, 2.3 DFT- 4	CRPO and CE to identify and undertake appropriate training Regular mentoring meetings with CRN and TFW		CRO	CRO Rhiannon – Community Rail Network	Registered for a number of training courses with Community Rail such as the New Community Rail Officer Networking event on the 24 th January in Birmingham. Subscribed to newsletters from avanti and Community Rail. Development plan written.
	Social Enterprise Academy Wales – Measuring Social Value	To attend 2 full and 3 half day training sessions to explore the measuring of social impact, delivered by Social Enterprise Academy Wales, and funded by TfW.	DfT-4 WBFG-3,4	To have the knowledge and be given the tools to measure the social impact projects on the activity plan will generate. To capture information to use in case studies future reporting.	Jan 2023	SEA tutors TfW	CRO time	Social Value Training attended 25 Jan 2023
	Media and Public relations training	To attend 1 full day training session in Shrewsbury with other CROs to learn the basics of TV interview skills.						

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Section 3: Sharing Good News Stories!

Activity	Description of Activity Outcomes and Links to Media Coverage or Websites
24 th May 2022	https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/20160576.3-counties-connected-community-rail-partnership-working-chirk-ruabon/
2 nd November 2022	https://news.tfw.wales/news/3-counties-connected-community-rail-partnership-welcomes-the-arrival-of-new-community-rail-officer
25 September 2022	https://www.groundworknorthwales.org.uk/latest-news/new-community-rail-officer/
27 October 2022	https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/23081498.community-rail-partnership-link-wales-england/
17 May 2022	https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/north-shropshire/2022/05/17/new-partnership-on-track-to-promote-stations-and-their-communities-north-of-shrewsbury/
15 June 2022	https://communityrail.org.uk/update-from-community-rail-across-wales-borders/
17 May 2022	https://www.groundworknorthwales.org.uk/latest-news/3-counties-connected-community-rail-partnership-makes-great-strides-in-its-first-month/
18 April 2023	https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/planting-a-warm-welcome-at-wrexham-general-station/ar-AA1a0cYJ?ocid=Peregrine
08 May 2023	https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/23500772.chirk-station-bookends-free-led-walk-community-rail-week/
18 April 2023	https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/23462878.wrexham-general-station-gets-makeover-new-planting/
03 May 2023	https://thenantwichnews.co.uk/2023/05/03/wrenbury-model-railway-club-to-stage-open-doors-event/
08 May 2023	https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/23500772.chirk-station-bookends-free-led-walk-community-rail-week/
09 Aug 2023	https://www.bordercountiesadvertizer.co.uk/news/23708614.wrexham-chirk-parish-hall-set-175th-anniversary-rail-line/
17 Aug 2023	https://www.bordercountiesadvertizer.co.uk/news/chirk/23726255.wrexham-chirk-victorian-day-success-celebrate-175-years/

Section 4: Approval and Monitoring

Plan Approved by	Signed	Date
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Chair: Nicola Said		
CRPO: <i>Josie Rayworth</i>		
TOC: <i>Transport for Wales</i>		
Review Period		