



Meeting minutes

Location: Microsoft Teams
Date: 19/09/2023
Time: 13:00
Attendees: Nicola Said (NS) VisitEngland(Chair of Meeting)
Josie Rayworth (JR) Community Rail Officer
Hanna Clarke (HC) Group Head of Marketing GWNW (Host)
Melanie Lawton (ML) Community Rail Manager TFW
Paul Thomas (PT) Friends of Chirk Station
Cathy Williams (CW) Artist
Rebecca Owen (RO) Wallich
Roger Date (RD) Gobowen Station
Antonio Carrino (AC) British Transport Police
Apologies Rhiannon-Jane Raftery (RJR) Community Rail
Joe Bickerton (JB) This is Wrexham, Wrexham
Joanne Jones (JJ) Housing Justice Wrexham
Sophia Leadhill (SL) Community Artist Wrexham
Gerard Rhodes (GR) Cheshire West and Chester Council
Amanda Newton (AN) Network Rail
Martin Clarke (MC) Community Rail
Andy Moreton
Matt Johnson

1. Welcome and Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves to the group.

NS explained the difference between the Stakeholder group which meets twice a year and the Steering Group which meets 4 times a year. All dates for meetings have been circulated.

Minutes from all previous meetings can now be found on the website

www.3countiesconnected.org.uk along with all partnership documentation including Terms of Reference including Community Rail Partnership Code of Conduct. NS brought attention to the Code of Conduct which promotes that the Stakeholder Group and the Steering Group work proactively together.

ACTION: ALL members to acquaint themselves with the documentation prior to the next Stakeholder Group meeting.

2. Chairperson update

NS introduced herself as the new interim chair as voted at the Steering Group meeting on 18th June. 2023.

NS ran through **ACTIONS** from the previous Stake Holder Group meeting.

- RR to send NS info on accreditation - completed
- ML to send NS list detailing who sits on the Stake Holders group and who sits on the Steering Group - completed
- RR to send NS details of the Community Rail Partnership Chair's Network meetings - completed
- ML to pick up with RD on Friends of Gobowen and planters - JR is now looking at this. To be completed by Spring 2024 when new policies are in place.
- ML to invite RD to the 175th celebration meeting on June 20th, 2023 - completed
- JS to send dates of future meetings and website link to attendees - completed

3. Community Rail Officer update from JR

a) 175 Anniversary

- Successful event with the Thomas Brassey Society at Chester Railway Station 1st August 2023. 3CC facilitated Victorian styles characters in the train from Chirk to Chester, the Town Crier to make an announcement at Chester Station and a reception at the Queens Hotel attended by the Thomas Brassey Society's patron, Pete Waterman.
- A fantastic FREE family-friendly Victorian Open Day at Chirk Parish Hall took place on August 9th 2023. Special thanks goes to the Friends of Chirk station for all their assistance in the event. A fantastic £141 was raised for Chirk Food Cupboard.
- Friends of Chirk have placed 'Emily' a Victorian themed scarecrow at Chirk Station.

b) Station Artwork Projects, Wrenbury, Wrexham, Nantwich

- Artwork projects at the stations are underway
- Wrenbury Primary school has had 5 art sessions involving 42 children

- Wrexham project has involved field trips around Wrexham with hard to reach groups

c) Summer workshop

- Wet felting workshops have been held at Minera Lead Mines an extension of the sessions at Brymbo

d) Wellbeing walks

- 2 Train stations walks have been held with a volunteer walk leader
- Walk About Wrexham have held one walk in conjunction with 3CC. Attendees got the train from Wrexham to Chirk and then did a walk around the Ceiriog Valley once in Chirk. With another walk scheduled in October 2023

e) Stitching History

- Participants in the Stitching History project are due to record their memories to be incorporated into the display.
- Display launch scheduled for October 18th

Other

- Wrexham Tourism Ambassador bronze award completed

3CC has had several pieces in the local newspapers

- <https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/23500772.chirk-station-bookends-free-led-walk-community-rail-week/>
- <https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/23679509.chirk-175th-anniversary-chester-shrewsbury-rail-line/>
- <https://www.bordercountiesadvertizer.co.uk/news/23680057.chirk-175th-anniversary-chester-shrewsbury-rail-line/>
- <https://www.bordercountiesadvertizer.co.uk/news/23708614.wrexham-chirk-parish-hall-set-175th-anniversary-rail-line/>
- West Cheshire and North Wales Chamber of Commerce magazine feature https://issuu.com/benham/docs/wcnw_september_23/34

ACTION JR presentation to be circulated with minutes.

Q NS asked if JR could put a timeframe on the completion and installation of the station artwork projects

JR suggested mid October for Wrenbury, end October/ middle November Wrexham and Nantwich project to start in October

ACTION JR to firm up completion and installation dates and for them to be shared with both the Stakeholder Group and Steering Group.

ML would like to ensure that Station Directors are invited to the launches.

ML Thanked JR for the width projects being undertaken, especially as they are very community focused projects. Good work from JR who is still relatively new in post.

JR thanked the artists (SL and CW) for their assistance in the delivery of the art projects.

RD noted the Gobowen Station and Severn Dee Travel 175th Anniversary event that took place on 14th September 2023. The event included historical displays, Derwen College where in attendance with a pop up shop and their dance group. The event was an opportunity to showcase the station and also mark 28 years of business for Severn Dee Travel. The event received coverage in the local paper.

4. Finance Update - NS

NS explained that 3CC want to be as transparent as possible in regards to the finances. A condensed version of the financials that have been submitted for accreditation was circulated to the group prior to the meeting.

NS asked if all attendees were happy with the table and the figures and does it meet their needs. Asked if they would like to see any other figures or would like it broken down in any other way. No questions were received from the group.

5. Activity plan 2023 priorities - JR

a) Sustainable travel tourism project

- Funding received from the TfW Challenge Fund - to involve 3 local tourist boards (Wrexham, Cheshire and Shropshire) to develop an interactive map detailing locations, activities and shops local to the stations that residents and tourists can visit utilising sustainable travel.
- Thursday 21st September a Community Rail Workshop - 'Mini Hack' on Sustainable Tourism takes place in Shrewsbury which the partnership is attending.
- NS has a meeting with all 3 tourist boards on Oct 5th
- NS and JR have asked for Stakeholders to think about what they would like to see on the

Map

- To be completed by March 2024

b) Well-being walks project

- Walks have been Wrexham centric but are being expanded to explore the rest of the line
- JR asked for input from Stakeholders for suggestions of walks that can be included in the project
- Groundwork Shropshire have quoted to run some walks in Shropshire - looking to start these in/from January 2024

c) Stakeholder Engagement

- JR has ideas for a '12 days of Christmas' activity and various Autumn activities. JR has asked for any input the Stakeholders would like to put into these activities. For example Dave Koring from Severn Dee Travel has suggested that Crewe has 12 lines which could form part of the 12 days of Christmas activity.

6. Community Grants - HC

HC confirmed that the money from TfW and Avanti has now been received. 10 x £2000 grants will be available for community groups within a 5 mile radius of stations along the line to apply for to assist in community activity. JR is working with GWNW in the compiling of an application form, T&C's and promotion. It is planned to live in October 2023.

7. Accreditation with CRN and TfW - NS

NS Membership of Community Rail has been applied for (the introduction to 3CC included in the membership application was circulated with the meeting documents). Accreditation meeting is scheduled for Oct 19th 2023. JR is to submit all paperwork that has been compiled to RR. Once submitted this will be circulated to the Stakeholder Group.

ACTION JR to circulate accreditation paperwork to Stakeholder Group once submitted.

8. AOB

- RD wanted to note the Friends of Gobowen and volunteering activity at the station. ML and JR noted that it would be visited in Spring 2024 when the new Friends of and Station Adopter policies have been approved.

ACTION ML and JR to follow up on the Friends of Gobowen and volunteering activity at the station

in Spring 2023

- NS noted that the ‘sustainability’ of volunteers and volunteers of the future needs to be a consideration in 3CC activity. Engaging all ages and cross sections of the community can assist with this.

There being no further business, NS declared the meeting closed.

Minutes approved by the Chair

Signed on behalf of 3 Counties Connected Date