

Who we are

Our Community Rail Partnership aims to develop links with schools and local businesses associated with our local rail services, and to enhance sustainable transport links in the wider area.

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2018/19

Annual Report

Our Partners



Introduction by the Chair

2018/19 has seen the CRP become a fully fledged organisation with the employment of our first Community Rail Partnership Officer.



This year we have worked in partnership with Govia Thameslink Railway, Network Rail, and local authorities, businesses, community groups and schools.

This annual report describes some of our achievements in line with the core themes of the Department for Transport's Community Rail Development Strategy:

- Providing a voice for the community
- Promoting sustainable, healthy & accessible travel
- Bringing communities together, supporting diversity and inclusion
- Supporting social and economic development, and
- Strengthening the partnership.

We are very grateful for the support of Govia Thameslink Railway, South Cambs District Council, the Association of Community Rail Partnerships, and our stakeholders. We would also like to thank our volunteer gardeners and tub waterers who kept our stations looking beautiful during the long hot summer.

We are looking forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2019/20 as we apply for accreditation in line with the Department for Transport's new Community Rail Strategy, build the confidence of people with barriers to travel, and promote tourism and leisure travel by train to our region.

Susan van de Ven

Chair, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership

Strengthening the Partnership

Community Interest Company

The Meldreth, Melbourn, Shepreth and Foxton Community Interest Company was formed to provide legal and financial accountability for the CRP and is now fully established with three directors from the local community.

Financing the Work of the MSFCRP

The work of the CRP has been part funded this year by South Cambs District Council and the parish councils of Foxton, Shepreth, Meldreth and Melbourn. Additionally, we received a contribution from Govia Thameslink Railway.



Supporting Social and Economic Development

The CRP has an aim to recognise and promote the importance of local business in the community. We have invited local businesses to become members of our Steering Group so that we can represent their concerns to GTR.

Shepreth Wildlife Park continue to offer a discount on the entry fee to visitors who arrive by train.

The Plough, Shepreth

Situated just 5 minutes from Shepreth Railway Station, The Plough encourage their customers to use sustainable transport, and have installed a screen on the bar showing local train times.



Providing a Voice for the Community

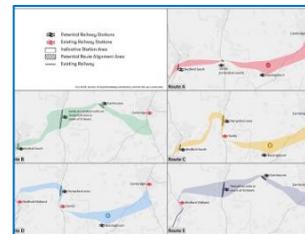
In addition to attending stakeholder meetings with Govia Thameslink Railway and lobbying for timetable improvements, the CRP has responded to several local infrastructure issues.

Shepreth Level Crossing



Following the replacement of the Automatic Half Barriers at Shepreth Crossing with Full Barriers, the CRP has liaised with Shepreth Parish Council and Network Rail over issues of traffic control resulting in a £15k contribution from Network Rail for mitigation measures.

East West Rail: Central Section



Plans for the Central section of the East West Railway were published in January and could have a potential impact on our stations. Representatives from the CRP attended several consultation events and a formal submission was made on March 11th.

Foxton Level Crossing Bypass



MSFCRP have been recognised as stakeholders in the Foxton Level Crossing Bypass Consultation and met with the Greater Cambridge Partnership to represent the views of our station users. We will continue to be involved in the proposals for a Rural Travel Hub.

Promoting Sustainable, Healthy & Accessible Travel

Visits to Foxton Signal Box: Promoting Safe Rail Travel

The Junior Travel Ambassadors from both Barrington and Meldreth Schools have now visited the Foxton Signal Box. The visits were supported by Govia Thameslink Railway and Network Rail. The children learned about safe travel on the station platform, on the train, and at level crossings.

“We think it was a really valuable trip because it helped us understand how dangerous it can be at the level crossing if you’re in a car or if you’re a pedestrian.” — Meldreth Junior Travel Ambassador

Encouraging Modal Shift: Improving footpaths and cycleways to our stations

The CRP has an aim to improve and enhance the station environments and promote green projects and sustainable travel. We have been working with our industry partners to secure funding for improvements to the paths between Melbourn and Meldreth, and between Melbourn and Royston.

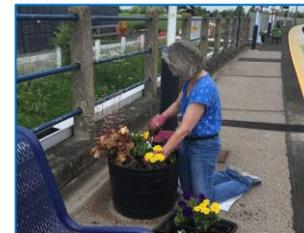
We continue to lobby for access improvements at Meldreth Station, including a ramp to the London platform and lifts for the footbridge.

Bringing Communities Together, Supporting Diversity and Inclusion

Station Gardening



The CRP organises the planting of the tubs on the stations in the Spring and Autumn. Foxton Station planting is supported by the Foxton Gardens Association. At Shepreth each tub is adopted by a local family or business. At Meldreth, volunteers carried out the planting; some new volunteers were attracted after social media posting.



British Transport Police have confirmed that this continuing attention has contributed to greatly reduced levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Station Watering Rota

Our tubs have stayed beautiful this summer, despite the hot weather due to the efforts of our watering volunteers, mostly students from Melbourn Village College doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Garden Tidy and Picnic

In June we held a garden tidy and picnic at Meldreth Station to say thank you to the station gardeners and waterers, and to Bern, the station master for his help during the disruption caused by the new timetable.