

Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership Annual Report 2017-2018



Read About:

- Community Action Days
- Station Adoption Projects
- Community Rail Awards in Derby
- More Trains on Sundays



Children's Artwork at Cromford Station



'The Station Volunteer' train naming



Duffield Platform decked out with new planting



Belper Station Wildflower Meadow in Bloom

Message from the Chair

I am delighted to introduce this report, which illustrates the varied and successful work that is delivered. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Chair of the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership, especially getting to know the range of stakeholders who are involved and contribute to the success of the Partnership. I have been impressed by the passion and dedication of the station volunteers and many of the other partnership members.

The welcoming station environments, continue to be wonderfully maintained by the station adopters and many of the stations have benefitted from one of a series of Community Action Days. The level of involvement from the rail industry has been impressive on these events and has raised the standard of stations to a new level. I witnessed first-hand at Whatstandwell, what can be achieved and how much people enjoy these action days where everyone joins together to make a real difference.

The Community Rail Awards in Derby were a great success. It was a pleasure to attend the awards and see the diverse range of community rail initiatives from around the country. I was delighted to see Cromford Station Group receive an accolade for the fantastic work they have achieved improving the station.

The following day was also very enjoyable, welcoming guests at Derby for a community rail train naming event followed by a train trip on the Derwent Valley Line and Ecclesbourne Valley Railway. At the start of the day, Garry Purdy was the guest of honour unveiling 'The Station Volunteer' chosen as the winning entry to name a train, to represent the essence of community rail. Garry has been consistently involved with the Partnership for nearly a decade both as Chair and Vice Chair as well as an active Cromford Station volunteer. Our scenic line and well-kept station environments lovingly cared for by our Station Adopters are something to behold. Changing trains at Duffield enabled visitors to see one of our most extensive community station enhancements that has been achieved, a project that had been the focus of one of our Community Action Days.

The additional Sunday train services have been welcome, especially the earlier morning service for people going to work in Derby and Nottingham. These extra services are a significant step to achieving the Partnership's aim of an hourly train service on Sundays. The Partnership's desire to achieve an hourly Sunday service has been one of the key points in our response to the East Midlands Franchise consultation. I very much hope that the new franchise, which will begin in the autumn of 2019, will provide further funding opportunities for the Partnership to develop.

The additional funding provided by CrossCountry Trains has been very welcome and has ensured that this year, the Partnership does not have to utilise any of its reserves towards core partnership costs. Combined with funding from East Midlands Trains and ongoing financial support from the Local Authorities, the Partnership is in better position to focus on delivering the improvements that matter.

Councillor Trevor Ainsworth

Community Rail Awards

An extremely successful Community Rail Awards was held in Derby in October. The awards ceremony itself took place at the Roundhouse on Thursday 5th October where Cromford Station Group won the Silver Award in the "It's Your Station" category. The Cromford Primary Schoolchildren's art project was also one of eight shortlisted community art projects.

The following day, East Midlands Trains organised various events for guests attending the awards, which focused on the Derwent Valley Line. East Midlands Trains organised a Community Rail Train Naming Event and the winning entry from Station Adopters was 'The Station Volunteer' proposed by Garry Purdy, Cromford Station Adopter and Vice Chair of the Community Rail Partnership.

After the unveiling at Derby Station, guests enjoyed a trip on the Derwent Valley Line and Ecclesbourne Valley Railways. This included on train guided commentary of places of interest along the route, from Adrian Farmer of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.



Cromford Station Group collect the 'It's Your Station' Award



News on the Line

Passenger Growth Continues on the Derwent Valley Line

Passenger journeys on the Derwent Valley Line increased by 2.5% to 738,012 during 2017/18. There were notable passenger increases at Duffield and Matlock Bath. The changes in passenger journeys for each station are shown below:

Station	Passenger Journeys 2017/18	Passenger Journeys 2016/17	% Change in Passenger Journeys 2016/17 to 2017/18
Ambergate	46,680	47,025	-1%
Belper	233,582	230,441	1%
Cromford	47,601	47,836	-0.5%
Duffield	74,580*	70,181*	6%
Matlock	222,504	221,937	0.5%
Matlock Bath	86,222	75,716	14%
Whatstandwell	26,843	27,923	-4%
Total at all local stations	738,012	721,059	2.5%

*Total includes through tickets to Wirksworth from Duffield

Group Travel Bookings

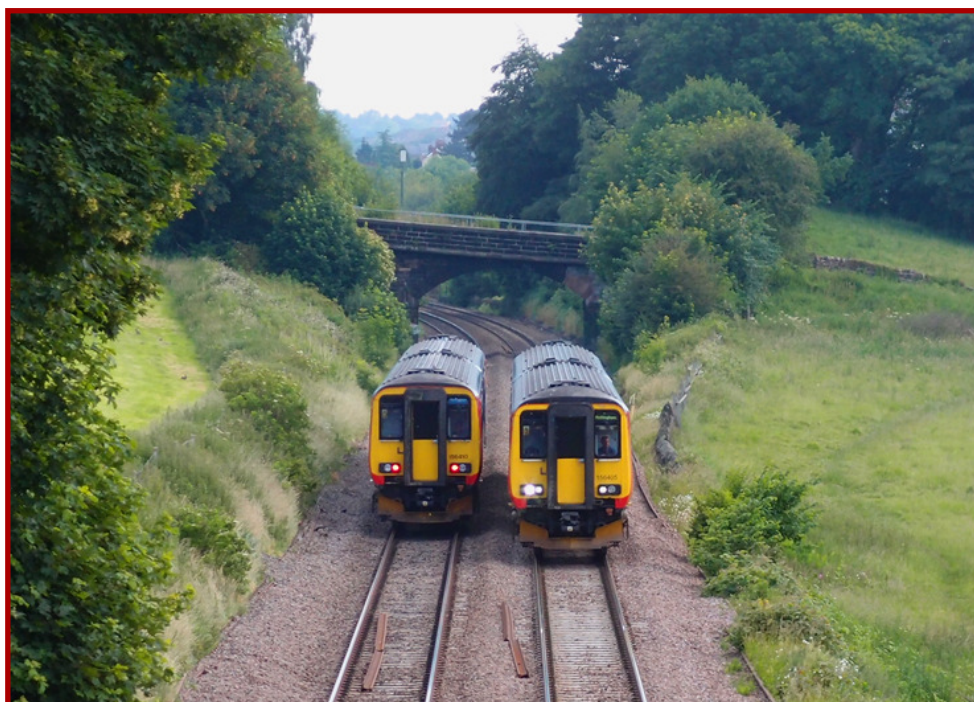
The partnership continued to promote group travel, which offers a 26% discount for groups of 10 or more. There were 38 group travel bookings with East Midlands Trains made to or from Derwent Valley Line stations, comprising 316 adults and 914 children.

Extra Trains on Sunday

East Midlands Trains introduced two extra train services as part of the summer timetable change on Sunday 21 May 2017. A new early morning service allows passengers to travel two hours earlier than previously, with the first train from Derby now at 0756, arriving Matlock at 0830. This train then forms the first service from Matlock at 0838, arriving Derby at 0912 and Nottingham at 0941.

An additional afternoon service departs Nottingham at 1623, Derby at 1656, arriving Matlock at 1730 and returns from Matlock at 1742, arriving Derby at 1816 and Nottingham 1845.

These additional services enable local people to better access Sunday employment opportunities as well as providing additional options for leisure travel.



Derwent Valley Line Trains near Milford

Train Punctuality

Train performance dipped slightly during the autumn and winter. This meant the punctuality measure dropped a couple of percentage points to an overall average across the year of 89%.

Improving Local Stations

Station adopters continue to do great work at their local station, managing station gardens and planting displays along the route. During the year, three new volunteers have joined our existing groups at Belper and Cromford taking the total number of Station Adopters to 54 across the seven Derwent Valley Line stations.

A series of Community Action Days involving both Station Adopters and staff from across the rail industry took place at several stations along the route. These events have seen additional maintenance work delivered including staining of fencing, painting and vegetation management. Action Days took place at Cromford on 5 May, Matlock Bath on 16 June, Duffield on 14 July, Whatstandwell on 11 August and Matlock on 15 September.

Duffield

Duffield Station has undergone a transformation during the last 12 months, thanks to a new decking and planting feature. In June, three areas of decking were built covering an area of 120m² with each section comprising a number of large planting beds. These were filled with 150 bags of compost and planted with over 350 shrubs all of which were carried across the footbridge, as part of the Community Action Day on 14th July. Additionally, extensive painting of the footbridge and fencing greatly improved the overall appearance of the station. Staff from East Midlands Trains, and Network Rail, joined volunteers from Ecclesbourne Valley Railway, Friends of the Derwent Valley Line and Duffield Parish Councillors in the community improvement day.



A CrossCountry Train passes the new planting feature

The project was very well received and a further set of three decking areas containing fifteen planters were built in March 2018. A further community day is planned in April 2018 to plant up the rest of the feature. This platform enhancement benefited from a £2,500 grant from ACoRP's Designated Community Rail Development Fund.

Belper

Weekly Station Adoption gardening sessions continued to be well attended to look after the extensive station garden areas including the wildflower area. A new display board explains about the wildflower meadow. The work of the Transition Belper volunteers was again a key element to Belper winning 'Gold' in the 2017 East Midlands in Bloom competition.

Ambergate

The small group of Station Adopters continue to look after the colourful floral displays comprising 19 planters around the platform, car park and station entrance as well as the large terraced garden area on the Station Approach.

The Community Rail Partnership has been provided with £500 from ACoRP's Small Grants Fund for an interpretative panel at Ambergate Station commemorating the Bi-Centenary of the Pentrich Revolution. The South Wingfield and Pentrich Revolution Group will produce the panel as part of a series of panels about this historical event.

Whatstandwell

A Community Action Day on 11th August was well attended by staff from ACoRP, Department for Transport, East Midlands Trains and Network Rail, who worked alongside Station Adopters to enhance the station. All the post and rail fencing was stained and vegetation cut back behind the platform. Network Rail had organised access for a group of staff to cross the track under the guidance of a Controller of Site Safety. This enabled trees to be cut back and a tidy up of the disused platform, which is normally inaccessible. The area was covered with landscape fabric, a wooden planter was installed along with six barrel planters, all filled with shrubs. An ACoRP Small Grant of £180 enabled woodchip to be purchased so that Network Rail staff could complete the enhancement.



Improvements to Whatstandwell disused platform

Work began in January to improve the public footpath which links the village to the station. Extensive rebuilding of the boundary wall was carried out by Amber Valley Borough Council. The main surfacing and lighting improvements will be completed in spring 2018.

Improving Local Stations

Cromford

The environmental improvements at Cromford were recognised at the 2017 Community Rail Awards with Cromford gaining the 'Lead Silver Award' in the 'It's Your Station' category. The judges from ACoRP and the Royal Horticultural Society were particularly impressed by the challenges overcome at the station, during the last few years.

This year, the station entrance has been greatly improved by the Station Adopters with support from East Midlands Trains and Network Rail. A row of old railway sleepers, provided by Network Rail were installed by staff from East Midlands Trains, at the base of the entrance banking. This created a stable area which the Adopters have planted with shrubs and covered with woodchip.

Platform fencing was re-painted and vegetation removal carried out as part of the Community Action Day on 5 May involving Station Adopters and staff from East Midlands Trains and Network Rail.

A collection of artwork was produced by children from Cromford Primary School, with the assistance of Cromford Parish Council.

These have been printed onto Dibond and installed along the platform fencing to illustrate local places of interest. Funding was provided to Cromford Parish Council from Derbyshire Dales District Council's Local Projects Fund.



Station entrance enhanced with sleepers and planting

Matlock Bath

At Easter, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust reopened the Whistlestop Centre to the public. This initial 'low key' reopening is the first phase to revitalise the former station building. Ideas and plans for a more sustainable use of the building are being developed with local stakeholders and possible funding sources being identified. It is hoped that significant building improvements and visitor enhancements can be delivered in 2018 to transform the neglected building.

The Community Action Day on 16th June was attended by East Midlands Trains and Network Rail staff and Station Adopters. Fencing and the outside of the shelter were restained, shelter seating and outdoor seats were also painted. Derwent Valley Line display panels were also installed.

The Community Rail Partnership was awarded £1300 from ACoRP's Small Grants Fund to enable the purchase of new planting barrels. This funding was provided to Matlock Bath Parish Council who have ordered eight anti-vandal 'self watering' barrels, to replace their existing wooden planters, which are in need of replacement.

New planting barrels and Derwent Valley Line Display Panels at Matlock Bath



Matlock

A Community Action Day was held on 15th September, which involved the painting of the entrance fencing, benches, doors and window frames of buildings and lower section of canopy columns. Vegetation management was also carried out on the planting between the car park and rear of the platform. Staff from East Midlands Trains and Network Rail joined volunteers from Peak Rail and Station Adopters.

Picket fencing repainted as part of the Community Action Day



Marketing the Derwent Valley Line

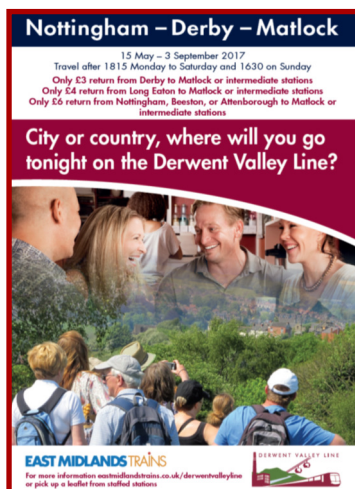
Marketing activities to promote the line were delivered by the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership. During the year, the following marketing initiatives were produced:

Derwent Valley Line Visitor Leaflet

Two editions of the Derwent Valley Line promotional leaflet were produced in May and December 2017. To promote the numerous places of interest along the line, the leaflet now includes the illustrative Derwent Valley Line map used on the panels at local stations.

Matlock Bath Illuminations

Large station posters were displayed to promoted train services to the Matlock Bath Illuminations. Discounted entry to the Illuminations, was again available to visitors to the event on production of their train ticket. Extra carriages were provided every Saturday during the Illuminations, to meet the demand generated by the popular fireworks' nights.



Summer Evening Saver

The Derwent Valley Line Summer Evening Saver ticket was promoted with station posters and leaflets. Evening return fares were again just £3 for journeys between Derby and Matlock and £6 from Nottingham to Derwent Valley Line stations. The promotional fare was available from 15 May to 3 September 2017 and again proved popular for evenings out.

Derwent Valley Line Promotional Panel and Station to Station Walks Panel

The illustrative panels promoting the Derwent Valley Line and the Derwent Valley Station to Station Walks have been installed at Duffield, Whatstandwell and Matlock Bath.

Promotional Panels at Duffield Station entrance



Local Transport Information

The Partnership's station information cases continued to provide visitor and local event information, as well as useful travel information. Town and village timetable cases were also kept updated.

Great Value Fares

Day Returns from Ambergate to Derby
Only £5.50 Off Peak Day Return* Only £5.80 Anytime Day Return
* valid for travel after 0900 Monday to Friday and any time at weekends and Bank Holidays
Please purchase Day Single and Return Tickets from the ticket machine to ensure you have a ticket prior to travel.

Season Tickets - Save up to 35%
£24.60 Weekly Season ticket to Derby
Monthly saving of 10% (£4.40) compared to 5 anytime day returns
£94.50 Monthly Season ticket to Derby
Monthly saving of 35% (£31.10) compared to 22 anytime day returns

Season tickets are available for periods of 7 days (Weekly), Monthly or up to 1 Year.
All Season tickets can be purchased from Derby or other staffed ticket offices.
Weekly Season tickets can be renewed by the conductor.
Season tickets for between 1 Month and 1 Year can also be purchased at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/biline
A photograph is required to validate your season ticket. This can be obtained from any staffed ticket office (a passport-style photo will be required).

	Off Peak Day Return	Anytime Day Return
Matlock	£4.20	£4.20
Matlock Bath	£3.80	£3.90
Croftford	£3.70	£3.80
Whatstandwell	£1.80	£2.00
Belper	£2.70	£2.80
Duffield	£3.70	£4.60
Derby	£5.50	£5.80
Long Eaton	£8.20	£8.20
Nottingham	£8.90	£10.60

Off peak return valid after 08:55 Monday to Friday and anytime at weekends and Bank Holidays.
Fares valid from 1 January 2018.

Derbyshire b_line Card Holders and Groupsave Tickets

- b_line card holders aged 16-18 receive 25% off local train fares as long as one end of your journey is in Derbyshire derbyshire.gov.uk/biline
- Groupsave offers a 34% discount on local off-peak services for groups of 3 to 9 adults travelling together, with up to four accompanying children travelling for just £1 each. Please purchase Groupsave and b_line tickets from the conductor on the train.

Fares valid from 1 January 2018.

This poster is produced by the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership.

Providing local fare information at each station

Partnership display cases at Ambergate promoting rail travel and local events



Consultation Responses

East Midlands Rail Franchise

A public consultation on proposals for the next East Midlands Rail Franchise was issued by the Department for Transport. The Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership submitted a detailed response illustrating the success of the route and the desire for additional train services especially on Sundays and in the late evening. A summary of the Partnership's aspirations are shown below. The franchise is due to start in the autumn of 2019.

Summary of Key Aspirations for Derwent Valley Line

1. Maintain current service level between Nottingham and Matlock with all trains serving all stations between Derby and Matlock. Consideration of an enhanced Spondon service due to housing growth.
2. Hourly Sunday Service from 0800-2300 between Derby and Matlock, extending to Nottingham.
3. Evening Service to be improved to hourly with last train departing later between Nottingham and Matlock.
4. All services to have a minimum of two carriages. Some peak hour and leisure services to have extra capacity.
5. Additional Belper mainline stops to provide a minimum of two morning and evening services in each direction to Chesterfield and Sheffield.
6. Half hourly service to/from Matlock to be introduced at key times to meet morning and evening commuting and seasonal visitor demands. It is envisaged that the provision of a passing loop between Whatstandwell and Cromford is required to enable this enhancement.
7. Proposed new East Midlands to North West Rail service to be a regional service with all trains calling at Belper and some at Duffield.
8. Various Station improvements including access improvements, Customer Information Screens and train detection. Stations to be managed by Local Station Management team that is available to support and work with Community Rail Partnership and Station Adopters.
9. Enhanced funding for Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership to provide the Partnership with a sustainable future and to deliver small scale marketing and station project work.
10. Continuation of East Midlands Trains 'Through Ticketing' scheme enabling travel from any National Rail station to Wirksworth on the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway and to Rowsley on Peak Rail.

Community Rail Strategy Consultation

The Department for Transport issued a public consultation on a new Community Rail Strategy. It is ten years since the previous Community Rail Strategy and this consultation aimed to reflect the current and future situation for community rail.

A response was submitted by the Community Rail Partnership covering the themes of connecting people to places; supporting communities, diversity and inclusion; supporting local and regional economies and innovative ways to improve the way the railway works.

Artwork by Cromford Primary School - art projects are a way of engaging local people with their railway



Finance Report 2017/18

The Partnership was delighted to receive new funding from CrossCountry Trains. This new funding for the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership is a three year commitment until October 2019 equating to £10,000 per annum and forms part of a wider Community Rail commitment as part of their 'Direct Award' franchise extension. Other funding has been maintained from Amber Valley Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, East Midlands Trains and the Peak District National Park Authority. This funding enables the employment of a part time officer and delivery of marketing initiatives and small scale station enhancements.

Financial Statement 2017/18

Expenditure	(£)
Salary Costs	19,357.80
Staff Travel	1,641.94
Projects and Marketing Activities	8,378.27
Miscellaneous Expenses (admin, IT and mobile)	531.36
Grants to partner organisations	1,850.00
Sub total for 2017/18	31,759.37
To be carried forward to 2018/19	53,919.44
Total Expenditure	85,678.81
Income	(£)
Amber Valley Borough Council	2,000.00
Derbyshire Dales District Council	2,000.00
Peak District National Park Authority	2,000.00
Derbyshire County Council	2,000.00
East Midlands Trains	21,917.05*
CrossCountry Trains	14,615.38*
Grants from ACoRP	4,480.00
DVLCRP Reserves from 2016/17	36,666.38
Total Income	85,678.81

Grant Expenditure

Three grants were provided to groups to deliver various projects:

- £250 to Groundwork for promotion of Autumn Footprints Walking Festival;
- £1,300 to Matlock Bath Parish Council for planting barrels;
- £300 to South Wingfield and Pentrich Revolution Group for design of Panel for Ambergate Station

Grant Income

The Partnership gained four grants totalling £4,480 from ACoRP:

- £1300 for Matlock Bath planting barrels;
- £500 for Pentrich Revolution Panel at Ambergate;
- £180 for Whatstandwell Disused Platform;
- £2,500 for Duffield Station landscaping.

Funding Notes*

Income from East Midlands Trains totalling £21,917.05 includes £6449.45 claimed for 2016/17.

Income from CrossCountry Trains totalling £14,615.38 is for the period from October 2016 to March 2018.

Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership

The Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership works to develop and promote the Derwent Valley Line for the benefit of residents and visitors. The Partnership's role in developing the line is officially recognised by the Department for Transport.

The Partnership's vision for the Derwent Valley Line is:

'The operation of a frequent and reliable 7 day a week railway service that will attract a growing market, meet the needs of residents and visitors and support the economy of the Derwent Valley'.

The Partnership is funded by Amber Valley Borough Council, CrossCountry Trains, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, East Midlands Trains and Peak District National Park Authority. The Partnership is managed by Derbyshire County Council.

The Partnership would also like to thank all our station volunteers, members of the Partnership and Chris Darrall for meticulously recording the minutes of the meetings.



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