

COMMUNITY RAIL

Community Rail Report

2023

E M R

EAST MIDLANDS RAILWAY

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
A letter from Will Rogers, Managing Director of East Midlands Railway.	
Summary of Report	4
Encloses details of Community Rail during 2023.	
Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs)	5
An overview of our funding contributions to CRPs	
Feedback from our CRPs	6
Testimonials from our CRP Officers.	
EMR Community Fund	9
An overview of the marketing support given to our Community Rail Partnerships and Station Adopters.	
Stations, Social and Commercial Development Plan	10
An overview of the scheme and projects we've supported this year.	
Non-Financial Marketing Support	11
How we support our CRP and Station Adoption groups.	
EMR Station Adoption Scheme	12
An overview of EMR Station Adoption Scheme.	
Community Rail Case Studies	15
Individual case studies made possible through the Community Development Fund (CDF) and also the core CRP funding.	
The Future of Community Rail	22
Summary of 2023 and what we hope to achieve in 2024.	
Appendix	23
Details of the 43 projects we have funded in 2023.	



Dear Secretary of State,

Please find enclosed our latest Community Rail Report.

Throughout 2023, budgets in every sector and household have been stretched. Indeed, against the backdrop of a cost-of-living crisis, rising energy bills, and the impact of inflation, the last 12 months have required everyone to examine how money can go further and work harder.

Of course, the Community Rail movement has been constrained by the same economic realities, but due to its drive and hard work, it has made a vital impact – helping to deliver projects that brought communities together and supported diversity and inclusion, as well as sustainable, accessible, healthy travel.

A good example of this is the transformational piece of artwork in an underpass in Mansfield, created by the Robin Hood Line Community Rail Partnership and Sutton Road Primary School pupils.

The artwork, inspired by the childrens' ideas, brought significant positive impact, and the project included educational trips and the promotion of rail safety awareness. The venture's social return on investment amounted to an impressive £299,283, showcasing a value of £19.50 for every pound invested.

Another wonderful project happened further south on our network, where Market Harborough in Bloom embraced the challenge of adopting its local station as part of a national gardening competition. The adopters secured funds for enhancements like vintage luggage trolleys, fences, and standing planters. With support from EMR, Network Rail, and the Department for Transport, the station underwent thorough cleaning and weeding for judging. The judges were clearly impressed, as the group earned a Gold Award regionally and nationally, receiving special recognition for innovative solutions and safety compliance.

We are proud of local heritage here at EMR, so when Hereward CRP approached us for help to celebrate its 10-year anniversary, we were happy to oblige. The result was a 10-minute film featuring drone footage of the Hereward Line, in-cab views from a train, and seasonal photographs from the Fens. The film not only highlights the railway but also showcases the CRP's year-long initiatives, serving as a powerful marketing tool to promote its work and the area's attractions accessible by train.

Of course, it would be remiss of me not to highlight the hard work of our station adopters over the last 12 months. We have around 680 adopters at present across our network, covering an impressive 94 stations. Their dedication to make their communities better cannot be underestimated, and we're very grateful to have them as part of our team. In collaboration with them and all our other community rail partners, we look forward to more projects being completed in 2024. There is no doubt in my mind that they will follow in the same footsteps as this year's schemes and will provide lasting benefits for the people in our region.

WILL ROGERS, Managing Director

Summary of Report

Over the past 12 months, we have continued to support the communities we serve despite ongoing financial constraints. We have collaborated closely with our community partners to diversify the support we can offer, from advice on marketing, infrastructure or property, to working with key partners like Network Rail to offer support on rail safety.

The 2023 report is set out to demonstrate how this has been achieved and how we can continue to support, learn and strive to improve our community engagement activity, in line with the DfT's Community Rail Strategy.



Community Rail Partnerships

Allocating The Community Rail Partnership Fund

We are committed to provide core funding for the eleven current CRPs listed below that are either wholly or partly served by EMR. This is to support the delivery of the Secretary of State's Community Rail Development Strategy. As per the Annual Business Plan submission, the table below sets out our funding plans for core contributions to Community Rail Partnerships:

COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP	2023-24	2024-25*	2025-26*
Derwent Valley Line	£27,290	£27,290	£27,290
Poacher Line	£27,290	£27,290	£27,290
North Nottinghamshire & Lincolnshire	£27,290	£27,290	£27,290
North Staffordshire	£27,290	£27,290	£27,290
Barton - Cleethorpes	£27,290	£27,290	£27,290
Robin Hood Line	£27,290	£27,290	£27,290
Derbyshire	£14,287	£14,287	£14,287
Penistone Line	£7,337	£7,337	£7,337
Marston Vale	£7,337	£7,337	£7,337
High Peak & Hope Valley	£7,337	£7,337	£7,337
Hereward	£7,337	£7,337	£7,337
Beds & Herts	£7,337	£7,337	£7,337
TOTAL	£214,712	£214,712	£214,712

*non indexed value

We have a close relationship with Community Rail Network, working with the area representative. We meet on a quarterly basis, to discuss CRPs and station adoption within the EMR region. Additionally, we have supported best practice visits for delegates attending their annual Community Rail Conferences, held in Nottingham and its tourism and marketing team presented at our annual Community Rail and Station Adopters Conference, providing a great insight into supporting and promoting local attractions.

We also support the wider Community Rail movement by sponsoring the Community Rail Awards each year.

"Community Rail Network are once again happy to support the proposed allocations of core funding as listed in the table to the CRPs across the EMR network. We confirm that the long-term goal to protect these amounts as the minimum level of core funding was discussed with us, and that sufficient account has been taken of our views - particularly that real-terms costs for CRPs are increasing which should be considered for future settlements.

The commitment from EMR at all levels of the business to fully support the growth of community rail through their well-resourced community rail team is particularly pleasing to note as is their provision of community rail project funding. The team are fully supportive of the overall aims of community rail and have a very positive relationship with Community Rail Network and each of the community rail partnerships through regular catch-up meetings and workshops at the annual Community Rail conference.

Aspirations of station adoption groups are well looked after too by the community rail team, through funding, practical support, the regular e-bulletin updates and attendance at the community rail conference as a "thank you" for all their efforts." **Paul Webster - Community Rail Network - Support and development manager (08/11/2023)**

Feedback from our CRPs

It is vital that EMR and the Community Rail Team, work in close partnership with our CRPs to maximise potential and impact. The below testimonials from our CRPs are a credit to the team and the CRPs and demonstrate collaborative working relationships.

We attend the quarterly CRP management meetings where we discuss the aims and needs of each partnership and the funding required to achieve them. Additionally, we sit on the National Community Rail Steering Group and TOC round table, attending quarterly meetings for both.

POACHER LINE CRP – GIN FIDLIN, POACHER LINE CRP OFFICER

The Poacher Line CRP acquires most of its core funding from EMR whose support is invaluable in delivering our projects and aims. The on-hand advice, support and events are imperative for the dissemination of key information to enable us to improve our eclectic range of stations. Partnership working is critical in supporting our journey to establish a well-presented community focused line.

In the last year EMR, alongside other TOC's, have enabled us to create a new line guide and deliver a walk booklet alongside supporting us to begin to repurpose station buildings, tackle anti-social behaviour at stations and create projects that improve the eco system.

SKEGNESS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

A piece of artwork was created to commemorate the anniversary of the station. Four Year 10 Art and Design students from Giles Academy, part of South Lincolnshire Academies Trust, produced a multimedia depiction of iconic Skegness attractions.

It is displayed on the concourse, and a celebration was held for the unveiling.

NOTTINGHAM STATION WALL ARTWORK

Poacher Line worked alongside Cross Country Trains UK, Community Rail Network and Robin Hood Line CRP to create a mural at Nottingham Station. EMR majority funded this fantastic project to work alongside the Railway Children charity and ImageSkool to create a cartoon strip to depict the journey of a young person's life. Progressing over the course of a week the artwork is on an exterior wall at Nottingham station with focus on integrating one's journey through the opportunities of rail.

Without ongoing support from EMR the projects wouldn't be possible. The core funding provided allows us to promote, encourage and develop our aims through our communities and support a multitude of groups and charities to make us a very successful CRP. Poacher Line cannot thank EMR enough.

BARTON CLEETHORPES CRP – DAWN BRANTON, BARTON CLEETHORPES CRP OFFICER

I began in post as Community Rail Officer in July 2023 and quickly realised how much support the Barton Cleethorpes Community Rail Partnership receives from colleagues at East Midlands Railway. Not only do they fund the officer post, but in the few short months I have been here, they have supported us with the completion of our re-branding project, with new historical and tourist information boards on the station platforms and the development of our new website. In August they delivered an excellent Routes of Remembrance Poetry Workshop for volunteers and officers to create a poem of remembrance, which is now displayed at Nottingham Railway Station. Throughout the summer they have been helping to identify solutions for accessing water at railway stations in order to maintain gardens established by adopters. In September they supported us to carry out a rail safety event on board the train with local families. While on Thursday 2nd November 2023 EMR supported BCCRP in remembering Chad Varah, local Barton man and founder of the Samaritans, marking the 70th Anniversary of the first ever call taken on the Samaritans Helpline. So, all in all, EMR colleagues have been central to my induction into the world of community rail!

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE CRP – CLAIRE SANDYS, NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE CRP OFFICER

North Staffs CRP is fortunate in receiving core funding from four train operators and four local authorities, but EMR is the main funder and as such has been an essential source of core and project funding.

This year it has contributed financially to the following projects:

- *Station Information Boards at every station which inform station users of things to see and do, both locally and at other stations along the Crewe to Derby route. EMR worked with the CRP to design the boards in house and paid for the printing costs.*
- *Station improvements at Peartree Station, Derby:*
 - *Improving wildlife habitats with St Martin's Academy, a special needs school in Derby. An EMR Community Grant paid for a bird box making workshop led by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust at the nearby Museum of Making and for a new set of hand tools for gardening maintenance. The bird boxes have been installed at the station. And a large bug hotel, made from pallets, has been erected behind one of the platforms.*
 - *Signage to the platforms has now been painted onto the road bridge above the station. This directs passengers to the right platform and also raises awareness of the station and its destinations with pedestrians and car drivers passing by on the busy adjacent road. It has been surprisingly difficult to find a sign writer for this job and EMR has been very patient in waiting for the project to be completed as two contracts fell through and the third was badly delayed by wet weather.*
- *New garden steps in the beautiful Kidsgrove Station Gardens have transformed this area, inviting volunteers and passengers alike to move through the area easily and safely. EMR has committed a Community Grant to pay for 50% of the construction costs.*
- *A new NSCRP website which is easier to use than the previous one and contains more information about local visitor attractions.*
- *NSCRP has enjoyed working with EMR's Routes of Remembrance, allowing station volunteers to attend a service on Derby Station and lay a wreath on behalf of their group. This year two local community groups, in Longport and Derby, participated in art workshops and contributed their locally themed Remembrance artwork to large permanent pieces at Derby and Nottingham Stations.*

EMR Community Rail team members are easy to communicate with and very supportive when another EMR contact is needed. They play an active role in recruiting and training new station volunteers and attend all quarterly CRP Management Group meetings. The EMR Ambassador has forged essential links with Network Rail colleagues, allowing the CRP to communicate with them directly at quarterly meetings. NSCRP feels very fortunate to have EMR as its main funding partner.

PENISTONE LINE CRP – SARAH WELLS, PENISTONE LINE CRP OFFICER

EMR is one of our funding partners for our CRP linked through Sheffield station. Kaye Robinson was proactive in meeting with me on my recent appointment as CRO, to discuss our CRPs plans. Through our meeting we have an ongoing collaborative project, to develop a community information space, within the atrium area of Sheffield Station, to showcase regional CRPs whose rail lines feed into Sheffield, and provide a community workshop area for Sheffield Station Adopters. The EMR team have been supportive in facilitating the project, and with EMR's ongoing support, will promote the great work achieved by regional CRPs and adopters, and encourage people to choose a day out by rail or volunteer within Community Rail.

MARSTON VALE CRP – STEPHEN SLEIGHT, MARSTON VALE CRP OFFICER

North Staffs CRP is fortunate in receiving core funding from four train operators and four local authorities, but EMR is East Midlands Railway Core Funding enabled Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership (MVCRP) to run a marketing campaign targeting young families to promote travel into Bedford for the bi-annual River Festival in July 2022. MVCRP arranged a special late evening Festival Flyer service on the Saturday and special all day Sunday service. The promotion proved to be a great success with over 1,500 journeys being made over the weekend.

MVCRP utilised the funding to book the critically acclaimed and award-winning Chasing Deer band for a special Christmas concert at Bedford station as part of a series of events in aid of Bedford Foodbank. Over £1,000 was raised.

The EMR contribution also enabled MVCRP to run a Station Friends Briefing & Workshop in April 2023 which was instrumental in keeping the Station Friends engaged during a challenging time of suspension of the Marston Vale Line.

EMR Community Fund

Due to the challenging financial position of the rail industry it was unfortunately necessary to reduce the Community Fund to £200k. Despite this reduction the fund has continued to have an enormous impact in the region. This fund has helped support many groups that are within a 15km radius of the EMR network as well as our CRPs and station adoption groups. The variety and amount of applications show the importance of having this fund available, particularly during the current cost of living crisis.

The below tables detail the amount of funding that we have supported during financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24*. A full list of projects we have funded from the 01 April 2023 can be found in the appendix.

	2022/23	
	EMR FUNDING	THIRD PARTY FUNDING
AVAILABLE FUNDS	£280,000	
PROJECTS SUPPORTED	£280,000	£1,511,561

	2023/24	
	EMR FUNDING	THIRD PARTY FUNDING
AVAILABLE FUNDS	£200,000	
PROJECTS SUPPORTED	£114,894	£ 140,739

*correct as of 28th December 2023

Stations, Social and Commercial Development Plan

As part of the ABP rail year 2022/23 EMR paused Stations, Social and Commercial Development Plan (SSCDP) activities, during this time we reached out to our communities ahead of the SSCDP re-opening in 2023/24. We have been allocated a £278k budget within our Annual Business Plan for Rail year 2023/24 to deliver SSCDP projects. We are currently actively progressing to deliver nine projects to be complete by 31 March 2024. Shortlisted projects are listed in the table below.

PROJECT	EMR FUNDING
Shirebrook station improvements	£7,500
Newark Castle path installations	£20,000
Burton On Trent Seating improvements	£22,000
Saxilby Guiding Garden	£15,400
South Wigston Steps and planting	£10,500
Defib Installations	£4,500
Ritazza Unit remediation	£50,000
Sheffield 1st Class lounge to Retail	£28,723
Nottingham 1st Class lounge to Retail	£27,385
TOTAL	£186,008*

*Costs listed in original application, contingency and inflation built in

We have also reached out to our communities ahead of the 2024/25 Rail Year, for applications for projects to be considered in the next Annual Business Planning cycle.

The SSCDP is a vital part of our commitment to continuously improving our stations for local communities and passengers.

Non-Financial Marketing Support

Throughout the year we are also able to support our CRP and Station Adoption groups with non-financial marketing support. Projects we've supported this year include:

- Design of Metheringham Station history boards
- Cab filming for Hereward CRP advertising video
- Brand support for Attenborough artwork
- Brand support and webpage creation for Nottingham wall art project
- Routes of Remembrance – design, webpage and filming
- Barton Cleethorpes CRP, full rebrand

CASE STUDY: NEW INFORMATION BOARDS – BARTON CLEETHORPES CRP

Case Study: New information boards – Barton Cleethorpes CRP

The marketing and design team provided a full rebrand for Barton Cleethorpes CRP, and gave expert advice to their web developer – a student who was completing a degree in Computer Science. As part of the rebrand information boards at each station along the Barton route had become dilapidated, worn and out of date.

Working with the CRP, new information boards were created, with up-to-date branding, new information, photos, and artwork. We paid for a photographer to take professional photos of every station along the line to support this.

Once the boards had been approved by the CRP, we replaced all of the old boards at every station. This gave a much needed up lift but also provided up to date information for visitors and commuters at each destination.



EMR Station Adoption Scheme

EMR's Station Adoption Scheme continues to go from strength to strength, with a consistent 10% Year on Year growth in new volunteers, we currently have 680 Station Adopters* across 94 Stations. The interest and increase in our station adoption scheme is a testament to the hard work of our EMR Community Ambassadors, who ensure the Station Adopters Health and Safety is a priority, and support groups with funding, projects and enhancing their stations.

Due to the significant increase in Station Adopters, we are exploring options with our IT business partners to improve the way we onboard and manage our volunteers. This includes talking to other Train Operating Companies with station adopters, and the Great British Railways Transition Team to explore cost saving options which are mutually beneficial for all.

We work closely with Community Rail Network and our Community Ambassadors to support our Station Adopters and CRPs. We work with all parties to drive continuous improvement and maintain a level of professionalism with our volunteers, this includes encouragement to become Community Rail Network members in order to access industry appropriate training and funding. Our Community Ambassadors also act as a vital conduit between our CRPs and Station Adopters and the wider rail industry, facilitating meetings, providing feedback and updates via monthly bulletins and a biannual newsletter.

In October 2023, we held our Annual Community Rail and Station Adopters Conference, at the Museum of Making in Derby. More than 150 guests from across the network joined us for a day of informative speakers, workshops, and networking. Hosted by Simon Pready, our Commercial Director, the day started with Will Rogers our MD, thanking the adopters for their hard work and then industry updates followed by our Assets and Facilities and Service Quality Regime Team and our Health and Safety team.

We then had a choice of workshops with informative presentations from:

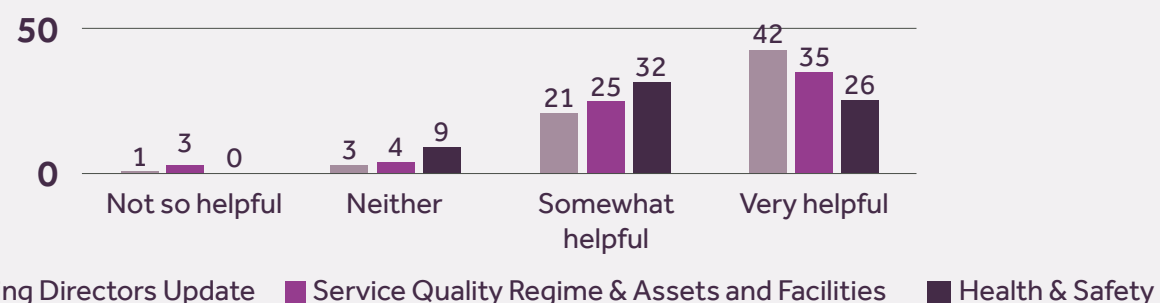
- RSSB and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Community Rail Network
- Infrastructure and Property - EMR
- Mansfield Town FC & First Art
- Belper Station Adopters
- Market Harborough Station Adopters - Bee Bug Hotel Workshop

Feedback from the conference is set out below:

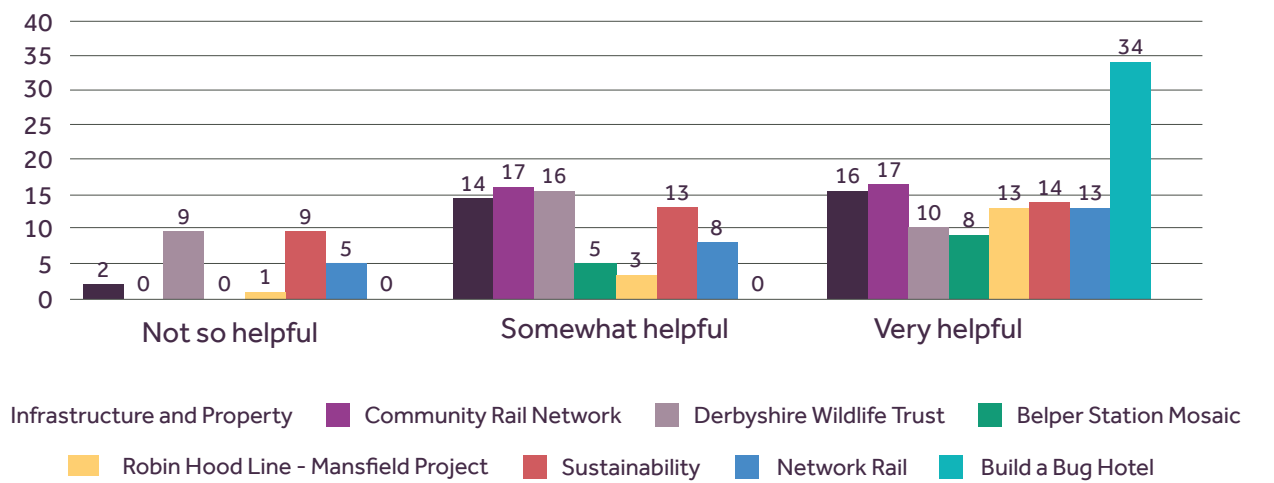
Quality of the venue – 80% scored this excellent and 19% scored this above average

Quality of the food and drink – 36% scored this excellent and 36% scored this above average

EMR updates



Workshops



COMMENTS:

- 'Great venue, really suitable, lovely food, enthusiastic EMR Staff, the workshops we attended were good and well presented, sadly some were rushed because of time limits.'
- 'Interesting and informative, always good to meet other station adopters to discuss ideas and views'
- 'Great atmosphere. Great speakers. Plenty of time over lunch to chat. Be very pleased that you have the GOOD problem of having so many adopters and outgrowing the venue! Well done to all the team at EMR for a great event ... and I made a Bee Hotel!'
- 'First time attendee; impressed by EMR briefings and the variety of the workshops. Enjoyed the bee hotel activity!'

Throughout the year the EMR Community Rail Team celebrates all the incredible work that the Community Rail Partnerships and Station Adopters achieve. This comes in the form of a Bi-Annual Newsletter, one released at Christmas and one during National Volunteers Week in June, as well as press releases and via X (formally Twitter). Some examples of this are below:

[EMR's Community Fund helps provide vital mental health support to young adults \(eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk\)](https://www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk)

[Art on the Move: Nottingham station set to unveil mural promoting rail safety \(eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk\)](https://www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk)

[It took every soldier: EMR to mark Remembrance with a special poem and community events \(eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk\)](https://www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk)



We remain committed to our Station Adopters and CRPs to provide opportunities that support the DfT's Community Rail Development Strategies (CRDS) 'Four Pillars,' some of these are detailed in the below case studies.

Community Rail Case Studies

The Community Development Fund has remained open throughout 2023, and we are delighted to have been able to support over 43 projects, year to date.

The eight case studies below highlight some of the projects that we have been fortunate to fund and support.

CASE STUDY ONE: Poacher Line CRP – Nottingham Wall Art

PARTNERS

Poacher Line CRP, Robin Hood Line CRP, The Railway Children, Base 51

FUNDING

EMR £2,695, Third Party Funding £3,000
Total = £5,695

DfT Community Rail Development Strategy (CRDS) four pillars

Providing a voice for the Community, Supporting Social and Economic Development

The CRPs jointly identified a space at Nottingham Station, which was dark and dull for passengers waiting for taxis. They wanted to improve the space by creating a large mural.

At EMR's annual Safeguarding conference, the Railway Children Charity was approached to help work with young people in Nottingham to bring the wall to life. They approached Base 51, a youth centre located five minutes from the station, who were delighted to take part in the process.

Working together with artists Imageskool, the young people came up with a theme and concept to create an initial design. They decided on a journey from child to adulthood with key destinations reachable by train, and how this influences their lives. This was then

showcased to the youths to give their final thoughts and ideas before the mural was completed across a week in November.

The young people got to work with Imageskool, actually creating the art as well, learning a new skill and as a thank you, we are taking the group to Skegness in Spring next year. Additionally, the artists created a QR code so passersby can learn more about the artwork and also access some of the local destinations it showcases including Wollaton Hall and Creswell Craggs, as well as delivering information about the partners who worked on the piece.

The mural now stands proud for everyone to see and has made a huge difference to the station and to everyone who took part.



CASE STUDY TWO: Derwent Valley Line CRP – Restoring Belper Mosaic

PARTNERS

Derwent Valley Line CRP,
Belper Station Adopters

FUNDING

EMR £3,100, Third Party Funding £4,900
Total = **£8,000**

DfT Community Rail Development
Strategy (CRDS) four pillars

Providing a voice for the Community,
Bringing communities together and supporting
Diversity and Inclusion



Transition Belper created a wonderful mosaic for Belper station over 10 years ago. Recently this has come into disrepair due to weather and wear and tear. The local station adoption group, CRP and Transition Belper decided to remove and restore the mosaic and involved a new generation of locals to help.

Across the space of a few months, workshops were

held to rebuild and improve small sections of the mosaic, the local community were invited to take part and the mosaic was then rebuilt on an improved background that is more weatherproof.

Working with EMR's property team the mosaic was reinstalled and is now stood proud, looking bright and cheery for everyone that travels through the station.

CASE STUDY THREE: North Staffordshire CRP – Peartree Station Improvements

PARTNERS

North Staffordshire CRP

FUNDING

EMR £1,400
Total = **£1,400**

DfT Community Rail Development
Strategy (CRDS) four pillars

Providing a voice for the Community, Bringing
communities together and supporting Diversity and
Inclusion, Promoting sustainable, accessible and healthy travel

Peartree station has benefitted from some vital funding this year, to improve the station for the local community and passengers that travel through. In spring the CRP worked with St Martins Academy in Derby on a Wildlife Project, this involved constructing bird boxes at The Museum of Making, supported by an expert Technician. The group then partnered with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to create an enormous bug hotel using pallets. This gave the students not only the opportunity to learn new skills when creating the boxes and bug hotel, but also to learn about the importance of protecting wildlife.

Later in the year, Graffwerk's were commissioned to create some destination artwork on the road bridge above the platforms, the CRP acknowledged

that some extra wayfinding would help passengers, particularly if they weren't familiar with using the train. Directional signage saying Turn left for Derby and Nottingham and Turn Right for Stoke and Crewe, have now been painted and are of great assistance to anyone travelling through Peartree.

Peartree also benefits from having an active group of Station Adopters, in August they joined forces with Siemens Rail Automation to have a litter picking, weeding, planting and bark spreading action day. These action days are a great way to support companies with volunteering, and really help to keep the station clean, tidy and support the wildlife in the area.



CASE STUDY FOUR: Hereward CRP – A year in film and pictures

PARTNERS

Hereward CRP

FUNDING

EMR £2,760, Third Party Funding £1,940
Total = £4,700

DfT Community Rail Development Strategy (CRDS) four pillars

Bringing communities together and supporting Diversity and Inclusion, Promoting sustainable, accessible and healthy travel

Having previously successfully used drone footage in films to promote the Hereward Line and the Fens, and to coincide with the Hereward CRP's 10-year anniversary, we produced a 10-minute long film incorporating aerial drone footage of the line, in-cab footage from a train (kindly organised and supported by EMR) and photographs from across the seasons in the Fens and at various events the CRP attended.

The film not only showcases the Hereward Line but also highlights the work the CRP have undertaken

during this special year - one event / launch was planned every month for the year.

The film was previewed at a special celebratory afternoon tea event on 24 October 2023 and is now available to view publicly. It will act as a strong marketing tool for the CRP to showcase the work of the organisation and the array of things to see and do in the area, all easily accessible by train.

The video can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/878284535/e66842b473?share=copy>

CASE STUDY FIVE: Primary Engineer – Primary Engineer Rail Project

PARTNERS

Primary Engineer, Rail Forum, Network Rail, Wabtec

FUNDING

EMR £3,560, Third Party Funding £5,340
Total = £8,900

DfT Community Rail Development Strategy (CRDS) four pillars

Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel, supporting social and economic development, Bringing communities together and supporting Diversity and Inclusion

Working with Rail Forum, EMR were approached to sponsor schools to take part in Primary Engineer, a project in primary schools which inspires young people to consider Engineering as a career.

EMR sponsored four schools, alongside Wabtec and Network Rail, asked four Engineers within the business to take part in the project, which involved a training session with the teachers from each school, then working with the school across a period of ten weeks, to support the pupils to create a train carriage that moves.

The project then culminated with a celebration event, where all ten schools came together to have their 'trains' tested, and prizes were awarded for design, speed, length and axis of movement.

Each team was also interviewed, to check knowledge and understanding. The pupils all received certificates and awards, and all were inspired to look at careers at little differently.



CASE STUDY SIX: Robin Hood Line CRP – Mansfield Station Art Project

PARTNERS

Robin Hood Line CRP, Mansfield Town FC, Sutton Road Primary School, First Arts

FUNDING

EMR £4,587, Third Party Funding: £10,763
Total = £15,350

DfT Community Rail Development Strategy (CRDS) four pillars

Promoting sustainable, accessible and healthy travel, Supporting Social and Economic development

This community-based initiative was created to revitalise the public underpass and the platform areas at Mansfield Railway Station, Nottinghamshire by installing a permanent art piece. The selected artist(s) worked in partnership with First Art, Robin Hood Line Community Rail Partnership and Sutton Road Primary School to co-design the piece of artwork.

After a day of interviewing three artists conducted three workshops with three classes of 30 children at Sutton Road Primary School. Peachez and Kunstudy were selected by the school children and the interview panel. The students worked with Lick of Paint artists Peachzz and Kunstity in a series of workshops to develop ideas for what should feature in the artworks. The artists said: "We felt the ideas from the children added to the magic and wonder of the overall designs, creating some charm and life in these areas." Karl Greenwood, First Art Director, said: "We're bowled over by the new artworks. The difference they've made has been phenomenal. "The input from the students has been a key part of the project.

The underpass was kept open during the painting, and many people commented on how much better it looks. The designs certainly bring a smile and that's got to be a good thing." A small exhibition of the students' work for the project is featured

in the First Art shop in Mansfield's Four Seasons Shopping Centre. The artists then began to hold further workshops with the school children to co-design the artwork with the 90 school children, and what a success it was! A grand opening took place involving all the school children, Mansfield Mayor Andy Abrahams and all other partners including EMR, Cross Country Trains, Community Rail Network, Mansfield District Council, Mansfield Town Football Club in the community and RHL CRP. community and RHL CRP.

That wasn't the end of the adventure for the children! As part of the project all 90 children had two school trips. One was a visit to Mansfield Town Football Club in the community where they had lessons on rail safety provided by our Community Rail Officer, healthy eating as a well as fun activities and a stadium tour.

The children then visited Creswell Crags Rail Discovery Trail over three days via the train. This was very educational as over 50% of the children had never travelled by train before. Each child received an Arlo's Adventure booklet, designed around rail safety, all the trips were fully commissioned through the partnership and received excellent feedback.

The project generated a social return on investment of £299,283. That's a value of £19.50 for every pound spent on the project.



CASE STUDY SEVEN: Market Harborough Station Adopters – Market Harborough in Bloom

PARTNERS

Market Harborough Station Adopters, Network Rail

FUNDING

EMR £5,190, Third Party Funding: £10,166
Total = £15,356

DfT Community Rail Development Strategy (CRDS) four pillars

Promoting sustainable, accessible and healthy travel,
Supporting social and Economic development



Market Harborough in Bloom has adopted the station. After some successful judging in previous years, they wanted to include the station in the In Bloom journey for the town, as they had been selected to take part in the competition at National level.

The adopters got to work fundraising for some wonderful additions to the station, including old railway luggage trolleys, fence planters, standing planters and trees to line an old walkway.

EMR, Network Rail and the Department for Transport then supported the group with some Community Action Days, where the station was de-weeded and cleaned ready for judging.

In the regional competition, the group received a Gold Award and in the National competition the group won Gold and were runners up with a special judges' award given for high impact and ingenious solutions to difficult conditions and compliance with safety regulations at the station.

Additionally, the In Bloom created Bee Bug Can Hotels that were placed across the town, EMR were so impressed with these, the group was asked to attend our Station Adopter Conference and build some with our other station adopters. It was a well-received workshop on the day, and we can't wait to see many more mini bees popping up across the network.

CASE STUDY EIGHT: Derbyshire Historic Building Trust – Wingfield Station Restoration

PARTNERS

Derbyshire Historic Building Trust

FUNDING

EMR £50,000, Third Party Funding £863,000
Total = £913,000

DfT Community Rail Development Strategy (CRDS) four pillars

Bringing communities together and supporting Diversity and Inclusion, Supporting Social and Economic development, Promoting sustainable, accessible and healthy travel

Derbyshire Historic Building Trust (DHBT) wanted to achieve the rescue and restoration of the only surviving station on the North Midland line between Derby and Leeds – South Wingfield Station. The building had fallen into substantial disrepair under a private owner. The aim was to provide suitable office facilities for the DHBT to lease out and give the building a sustainable future. They also wanted to incorporate engagement activity and heritage interpretation to involve the local community.

They achieved this by delivering capital works undertaken by a local conservation contractor and appointing a Project Engagement Coordinator to involve the local community. An interpretive designer has created heritage interpretation that explains more about the history of the station and how important the railway was to the area. They created an activity programme that offers/offered opportunities for people to find out more about the

station through tours, exhibitions, and open days. Derbyshire Historic Building Trust raised the profile of the station and secured a tenant for the future, whilst collaborating with some key partners.

Their partnership with Broomfield College turned into something far more than what they expected! The students ended up using Wingfield Station as the basis for a show-garden that they designed for Gardeners' World Live 2023. They used the concept of the derelict building on one side and the restored on the other for their project. The show attracted more than 10,000 visitors over the four days and was great exposure for the project. The students were awarded a silver merit award.

The grand opening took place on Friday 27 October, with over 100 people in attendance to celebrate and see this important piece of history restored to life.





The Future of Community Rail in the East Midlands

Once again, we have seen the value that supporting our Community Partners brings not only to our stations, but to the communities we serve across the EMR network.

Whilst challenges remain around funding, the value, and outputs we see from this money are clear and the contributions to our Community Rail Partnerships to have dedicated staff support this further is essential for the future success of Community Rail.

With the large increase in Station Adopters, it is vital we manage them, in a professional way. To do this we are exploring the Investors in Volunteers award, to ensure our practises are current and appropriate and a new Station Adopters database, to ensure we remain GDPR compliant and manage our time effectively.

We are also exploring options that would allow us to reach further volunteers and support projects and ideas that are raised with us daily. Strengthening our relationships which, outside of financial support are essential in helping us serve the communities within the EMR network.

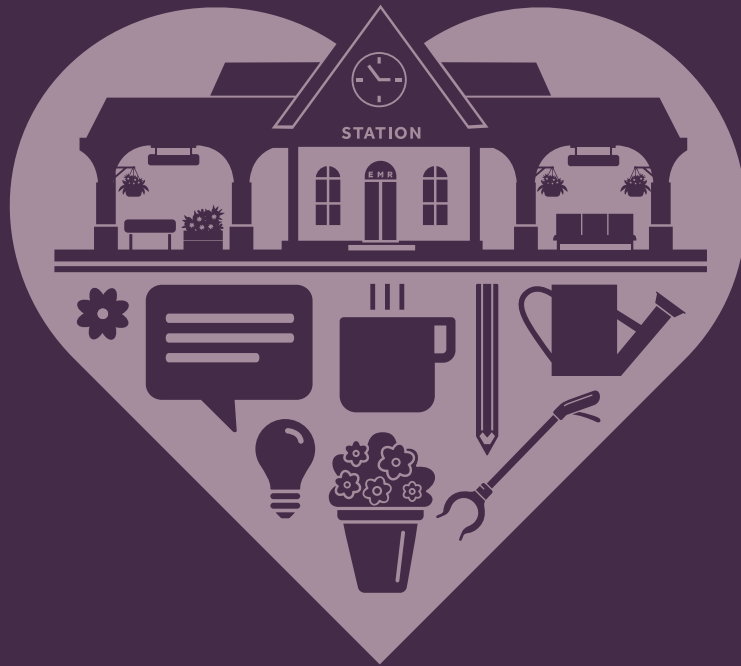
Additionally, we are looking to embed outstanding practises in sustainability by using and showcasing the Rail Social Value Tool, sitting on key working groups both internally and externally to the business. We are also working hard to make certain Community Rail is considered by wider areas of EMR in order to add value in everything we do.

Looking to the future, we want to protect and support our CRPs and Station Adopters both financially and non-financially, creating a sustainable blueprint that shows impact and value, and become a leader in what we deliver as a train operating company. We will continue to adapt and review our practises ensuring we listen to what our communities want, to deliver an outstanding service in 2024.

APPENDIX

EMR Community Development Fund. Below are the details of the 43 projects we have funded year to date.

CRP/COMMUNITY GROUP	PROJECT NAME	EMR FUNDING	THIRD PARTY FUNDING	TOTAL
Derwent Valley Line CRP	Sustainable Station Planting Baskets	£2,500	£1,251	£3,751
Friends of Gainsborough Lea Road	Blooming Lea Road 23-24	£1,000	£0	£1,000
Market Rasen Station Adoption Group	Art Attack	£745	£0	£745
Engineered Learning	Active Hands Easter and May	£2,937	£2,950	£5,887
Shaping up Stallingborough	Station Planters	£996	£0	£996
Robin Hood Line CRP & Buzzing Roots	Blossoming trains at Bulwell	£2,024	£4,048	£6,072
Friends of Metheringham Station	Brightening up Metheringham	£560	£0	£560
Friends of Newark Castle Station	Forecourt and car park improvements	£1,000	£694	£1,694
Robin Hood Line CRP	Whitwell Station Garden	£30,000	£44,194	£74,194
Barrow upon Soar Station Adopters	Artwork Test piece	£300	£0	£300
Derwent Valley Line CRP	Print and online advertising campaign	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000
Derwent Valley Line CRP	Matlock Platform 2 Planters Replacement Project	£1,000	£100	£1,100
Ecclesbourne Valley Railway	Mains water supply and remedial works	£4,500	£4,500	£9,000
Hereward CRP	A year in film and pictures	£2,760	£1,940	£4,700
Hereward CRP	Fenland walking and cycling maps	£4,040	£5,270	£9,760
North Staffs CRP	Schools and community days at Foxfield Railway	£1,925	£3,000	£4,925
Attenborough Elderflowers	Attenborough Art project	£1,200	£1,200	£2,400
Derwent Valley Line CRP	Tracks, Trails and Train Tracks	£2,500	£1,250	£3,750
Barrow upon Soar Station Adopters	Sleeper Planters	£2,296	£1,700	£3,996
Derwent Valley Line CRP	Belper mosaic	£3,100	£4,900	£8,000
North Staffs CRP	Kidsgrove steps	£3,047	£3,047	£6,094
Great Coates in Bloom	Great Coates coronation garden improvements	£680	£380	£1,060
BCCRP	Try B4 U Buy ebike scheme	£4,999	£23,001	£28,000
BCCRP	Barton Boards	£1,510	£0	£1,510
DVLCRP	WCOS shortlist boards	£200	£0	£0
Lincoln Rotary	Hanging baskets	£672	£0	£672
NSCRP	Longport woodland	£530	£0	£530
NSCRP	Longton Arch Survey	£1,000	£600	£1,600
Burton Rotary	Tree removal scheme	£4,000	£5,000	£9,000
Burton Rotary	Legal paperwork	£4,500	£5,000	£9,500
Friends of Metheringham Station	History boards	£213	£0	£0
Poacher Line CRP	Nottingham wall art	£2,695	£3,000	£5,695
North Staffs CRP	Derby waiting rooms CRP displays	£1,000	£759	£1,759
NNLCRP	Routes of Remembrance	£987	£0	£987
North Staffs CRP	Pigeon Mitigation for Longton underpass	£1,638	£1,638	£3,276
Friends of Burton Joyce and Lowdham Stations	Railway history map	£144	£0	£144
Young Persons Learning Provision	History boards for Ruskington	£300	£0	£0
Market Rasen Station Adoption Group	Liability insurance	£475	£66	£541
North Staffs CRP	Tools for Derby Station Garden	£471	£0	£471
High Peak and Hope Valley CRP	Ethels Exploits	£3,500	£3,500	£7,000
Ecclesbourne Valley Railway	Accessible walkway	£9,750	£9,750	£19,500
NNLCRP	Community Cafe	£4,999	£6,001	£11,000
Spencer Wyndham Academy	Choir transportation	£200	£0	£0



E M R

The information in this booklet was correct at the time of printing in January 2024, but may be subject to change without prior notice. East Midlands Railway does not accept liability for any inaccuracy of this information.