

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership

Linking local
communities with
the rail industry



Progress Report

Published February 2017



Welcome to the Severnside Community Rail Partnership's 2017 Progress Report



Severn Beach Line

- 1 St Andrew's Road
- 2 Avonmouth
- 3 Shirehampton
- 4 Sea Mills
- 5 Clifton Down
- 6 Redland
- 7 Montpelier
- 8 Stapleton Road
- 9 Lawrence Hill

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The Severnside Community Rail Partnership works with local communities to identify and implement measures to encourage the use of local trains and to ensure that access to local stations is easy and that stations provide a safe and welcoming environment. We cover the network of routes radiating from Bristol, bounded by Gloucester, Bath/Freshford, Weston-super-Mare, Taunton, and the Severn Estuary; this includes the branch line to Severn Beach.

Over the last few years the local stations have been transformed. The Partnership's work is considerably assisted by young people and by local communities, who undertake much of our station and other work on a voluntary basis. Schools display their artwork on the platforms (and compete for the available space!), and community groups tend the gardens. The graffiti has (largely) gone.

Unfortunately, disruption caused by electrification limited the work the Partnership has been able to undertake in 2016 at both Keynsham and Oldfield Park stations.

In 2016 the Partnership sponsored, and arranged funding for, a complete rebuild of Severn Beach station, which won a national award.

The Partnership is a Community Interest Company. The running costs of the Partnership, including the post of part-time Partnership Officer, receive significant funding by way of grants from Great Western Railway (GWR) and the local authorities. Without their support and encouragement, we could not operate and deliver the considerable benefits which are being achieved. As part of the Greater Western Franchise, there has also been a much welcomed increase in funding for specific Community Rail projects, and this is supplemented by bids for specific grants from local authority and other sources.

Our principal sponsors and funders



Supported by



Keith Walton, Chairman

Some of the Partnership's achievements in 2016

Community Payback

Local stations benefit from offenders spending their community payback hours improving the station environment.

A qualified supervisor, employed by the Partnership, brings groups of offenders to local stations once a week.

1,394

community payback hours spent improving local stations



Schools

We run a rail familiarisation programme for year-six primary school pupils, building their confidence in using the railway independently as they progress to secondary school. Our successful arts schemes engage with a range of primary and secondary school students.

620

pupils engaged in Community Rail activity

Safer and More Welcoming Local Stations

We cover 25 local stations, most of which are unstaffed or staffed on a part-time basis. Many of these stations have been adopted by local community volunteers who tend planters and promote good environmental practices, making stations feel safer and more friendly. We encourage station entries to the Royal Horticultural Society "It's Your Neighbourhood" Awards and have seen great success in this scheme.



Understanding Communities

Under sponsorship from the GWR Customers and Communities Improvement Fund, we have been working in partnership with the University of the West of England (UWE) delivering a scheme which provides groups from disadvantaged communities with free return rail travel to enjoy a day out in the West of England. The programme, running until February 2017, allows The Centre for Transport and Society at UWE to obtain data from eligible groups which will provide a greater understanding of barriers, or perceived barriers, to rail travel.



90

groups each of up to 20 passengers

Researching Travel Patterns

The Partnership uses data from independent passenger counts to establish the number of passengers using local stations and changes to travel patterns. During the past twelve months the most significant increase in journeys has been between Lawrence Hill / Stapleton Road stations and Avonmouth / Severn Beach, with a new demographic of passengers using the train to reach employers along Severnside. We recognised the importance of this "reverse commuting", and have commissioned a piece of research engaging with passengers and their employers. With further employment growth planned, it is important that we better understand the needs of employers and the work patterns of their staff. We can then identify gaps in the train service and work with GWR to see how the service could be improved.



over 30%

increase in commuters travelling by train to work in Avonmouth / Severn Beach

Another Partnership Achievement in 2016

A New Station for Severn Beach

The old station at Severn Beach was basic, bleak and unwelcoming. In 18 months passengers using the station had gone up by around 50% - and more growth is expected, because of new warehousing and other employment in the area. Considerable effort is going into attracting more visitors to the Severn Vale using Severn Beach station as a railhead, through the Forgotten Landscape project. The small old shelter would not accommodate the number of passengers using the station, which include frequent school parties.

Severnside Community Rail Partnership, with strong community involvement and support, sponsored the rebuild and put together a funding package. The scheme was delivered at a total cost of around £80,000, half the cost of the original rail industry estimate.

The new station won the 2016 National Community Rail Award for Most Enhanced Station Buildings and Environs.

Funded by



The Severn Beach line

- Is one of 35 rail routes with formal Community Rail Designation by the Department for Transport – this gives the Partnership an enhanced role and **real involvement in the development of the line, and helps encourage innovation.**
- has seen a **350% growth in passengers** in 10 years
- continues to see **the highest passenger growth** of any Community Rail line

Passenger Statistics

Passengers using West of England area local stations on weekdays

Station	2007	2015	2016
Yate	694	1351	1446
Patchway	139	446	344
Filton Abbey Wood	1958	4620	4764
Bedminster	156	336	250
Parson Street	108	573	528
Nailsea and Backwell	1315	1874	2015
Yatton	1192	1517	1494
Worle	841	1567	1650
Weston Milton	261	389	407
Weston-s-Mare	2279	2805	2828
Keynsham	839	1654	1679
Oldfield Park	841	1431	1457
Freshford	89	137	167
Severn Beach	135	390	355
St Andrews Road	30	69	79
Avonmouth	218	719	728
Shirehampton	86	459	481
Sea Mills	121	346	371
Clifton Down	500	2003	2111
Redland	264	783	661
Montpelier	253	1147	1138
Stapleton Road sb	326	946	877
Lawrence Hill sb	263	789	870
Temple Meads sb	649	2328	2589
Severn Beach line trains total	2845	9979	10260

Stapleton Road nsb	91	526	503
Lawrence Hill nsb	49	558	608
Stations - Temple Meads - Severn Beach - all trains	2985	10879	11371

Notes; the figures above are taken from the November weekday count which is undertaken annually by the West of England local authorities, and is a one-day snap shot of the total number of passengers both boarding and alighting at the station on the day of the count.

The 2016 figures are provisional and subject to verification.

nsb = not Severn Beach line passengers:
sb = Severn Beach line passengers.

Office of Rail and Road station usage statistics

West of England	2014/15	2015/16
Avonmouth	119,924	129,860
Bath Spa	6,222,126	6,134,318
Bedminster	87,542	92,868
Bristol Parkway	2,340,506	2,511,016
Bristol Temple Meads	10,099,526	10,711,464
Clifton Down	619,766	672,386
Filton Abbey Wood	1,007,780	1,021,550
Freshford	44,414	43,160
Keynsham	412,602	424,032
Lawrence Hill	150,774	157,912
Montpelier	130,560	122,146
Nailsea & Backwell	450,510	476,618
Oldfield Park	312,946	315,070
Parson Street	114,458	126,636
Patchway	92,540	98,296
Pilning	68	46
Redland	105,610	99,732
Sea Mills	64,512	61,696
Severn Beach	224,658	260,784
Shirehampton	52,480	56,756
St Andrew's Road	11,184	7,374
Stapleton Road	178,114	179,872
Weston Milton	64,494	65,450
Weston-Super-Mare	1,099,844	1,143,152
Worle	291,502	299,014
Yate	354,004	368,910
Yatton	435,626	426,246
Totals	25,088,070	26,006,364

Figures above are from ORR published station usage data, based on ticket sales allocated Lennon data. Note: the Severn Beach line has zonal fares, so individual station recorded figures may not be correct.

Wiltshire (selected)		
Avoncliff	19,432	19,948
Bradford-On-Avon	534,946	524,180
Chippenham	1,895,980	1,815,922
Trowbridge	903,248	902,966
Westbury	529,358	544,244

Somerset (selected)		
Bridgwater	308,856	312,292
Highbridge & Burnham	190,396	193,462
Taunton	1,315,144	1,375,546

Gloucestershire (selected)		
Cam & Dursley	185,504	193,640
Cheltenham Spa	2,038,404	2,178,472
Gloucester	1,364,142	1,435,698

Some of the Partnership's proposed work for 2017

More Shelter for Passengers

The Partnership recognises that passengers need shelter at the station - not only while waiting on the platform but also when queuing to purchase tickets from a sales hut or ticket vending machine. We are therefore investigating a programme to provide modern canopy shelters to cover ticket sales outlets at unstaffed or part-time staffed stations across our region – including Yate, Oldfield Park, Keynsham and Worle.



Improvements at Avonmouth Station

Under a funding package put together by the Partnership, platform 1 at Avonmouth station (used by trains towards Severn Beach) will see a new fit-for-purpose shelter located nearer the level crossing, seating, fencing, planters and a community art scheme. It is also hoped to install CCTV.

Funded by



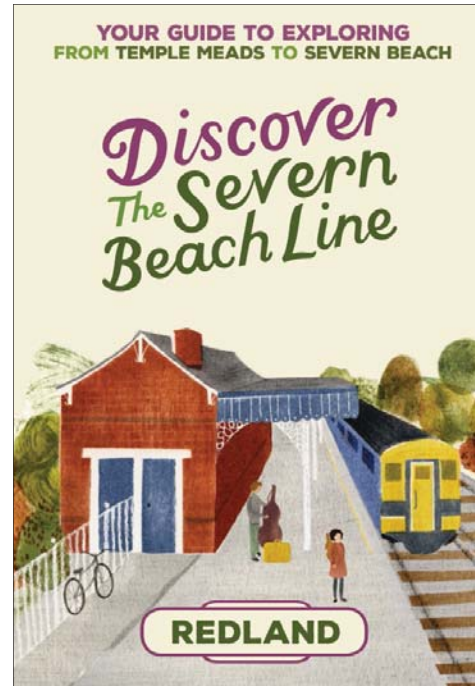
Easier Access to trains

A number of stations in the West of England have a large gap / step height between the platform and the train, making access difficult for many passengers. Elsewhere, humps have been provided to raise short sections of platform to a height which will enable easier access to trains. The Partnership will be raising the issues with Network Rail to seek an appropriate solution.



Widening our Volunteer Base

We welcome new volunteers of all ages and from all backgrounds, including corporate teams, to join our station adoption groups. The Partnership plans to introduce a new station adoption tool kit to promote the range of volunteering opportunities and to guide new volunteers through the processes of joining a group and staying safe on the station.



New resources for Younger Passengers

"Discover the Severn Beach line" is a set of resources designed for children aged around 11 to enhance the experience of a journey along our unique local branch line. The project website, scheduled to launch in March 2017, includes an interactive map of the line and downloadable activity packs for schools, youth groups and families to access free of charge.

Funded by



Accounts and financial statement Sevenside Community Rail Partnership

Year ended 31 March 2016 - Balance Sheet

	£ 2015-16	£ 2014-15
Fixed Assets		
Current assets		
Debtors		31
Cash at bank and in hand	33,979	48,573
	33,979	48,604
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	(719)	(719)
Net Assets	33,260	47,885
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	33,260	47,885
Represented by:		
Restricted funds	(2,486)	9,137
Unrestricted funds	35,746	38,748
	33,260	47,885

The Directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act. The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

Passengers using local/regional trains in the West of England 2016

Cardiff - Bristol - Westbury - Portsmouth/Weymouth	9,128,000
Bristol - Severn Beach	1,368,000
Bristol - Weston-super-Mare - Taunton	2,068,000
Bristol - Gloucester - Great Malvern	1,540,000
Total West of England local/regional journeys	14,104,000

Notes: These figures are from GWR ticket sales allocated Lennon data and include only GWR journeys. Some journeys made for example on rover tickets or employee passes, or on substitute buses, may not have been recorded. So the figures may underscore the total journeys, but this is unlikely to be significant

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership

Year ended 31 March 2016 – Income and Expenditure information

	£ 2015-16 Restricted	£ 2015-16 Unrestricted	£ 2015-16 Total	£ 2014-15 Total
Income				
Contributions from partners	-	50,000	50,000	41,500
Miscellaneous	-	100	100	2,065
Bristol	3,390	-	3,390	3,000
B&NES Arts Project	-	-	-	3,840
Severn Beach Line research	-	-	-	4,000
Other Grants	-	-	-	5,000
GWR	10,203	-	10,203	21,670
Somerset	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Bank Interest	-	3	3	1
	15,093	50,103	65,196	82,576

Expenditure

Travel & Subsistence	-	919	919	1,010
Salary and payroll costs	-	34,133	34,133	31,902
Miscellaneous	1,488	563	2,051	2,850
Telephone/IT	-	2,517	2,517	2,510
Postage/stationery/printing	-	275	275	183
Meetings/Events	-	373	373	158
Accommodation	-	4,988	4,988	3,960
Accountancy/Audit/Insurance	-	1,227	1,227	1,191
Station improvement work	29,170	-	29,170	30,270
School visits	4,168	-	4,168	-
	34,826	44,995	79,821	74,034

Surplus/Deficit for the year	(19,733)	5,108	(14,625)	8,542
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Transfer between funds	8,100	(8,100)	-	-
Balance brought forward	9,137	38,748	47,885	39,343

Balance at 31 March 2016	(2,486)	35,746	33,260	47,885
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Contributions in kind: we are grateful for travel passes provided by First Great Western and Cross Country Trains, which are not included above



"We took a small group to Bath today to see the Christmas markets. Everyone had a wonderful time, including one who had never travelled by train before, and another who until recently has felt unable to leave her home, and walked around the city beaming and repeatedly thanking us for taking her. So again, thank you, from us, and from our members"

Steve Owen, Borderlands Refugee Charity

Participants in Days Out by Train in the West of England, delivered in partnership with the University of the West of England and GWR

