



Rail Development Officers Report February 2019

Community engagement, developing plans to expand the reach of the CRP to a wider range of groups including those socially disadvantaged and /or with protected characteristics

The RDO attended Newtown Train Station with Dave Crunkhorn the station manager, Mrs Jones and Her husband who lives with Dementia to do a station audit using the documentation provided by the Alzheimer's Society. The Audit was completed with only a small number of improvements being needed. This was then sent to TfW to ask of the enhancements could be done as soon as possible as part of the upgrade and deep cleaning work planned for all stations. This will also be discussed at the TfW accessibility panel.

The RDO and the TfW schools liaison officer attended Caersws Primary School to talk to the children about railway safety and level crossing safety. The children were very keen to participate in question and answer sessions and understood the dangers well. Caersws has two level crossings in close proximity to the school.

Work to promote/market local rail services and stations on their lines using local knowledge to maintain a high profile in the communities served by the railway

On the 19th November 2018 we attended the ACoRP Seminar in Preston and we were asked to deliver a presentation on how we delivered the Community Rail in the City promotion in Birmingham in 2018 .

We tried to pass on all we had learned from the event and how much resources were required much of it from volunteers and how to ensure all the relevant permissions were granted.

We highlighted how working together can deliver greater results and that utilising expertise both from within community rail and from the heritage rail sector is valuable.

Consultation Responses. Respond to consultation requests in particular associated with Rail Franchises

The RDO responded to Tfw Rail Services consultation on the introduction of penalty fares on the Shrewsbury-Wolverhampton route. This is being introduced as the route is shared with West Midlands Railway who already has a penalty fare policy in place. It was emphasised that the route is important for passengers travelling on direct services from Aberystwyth who may not have had the opportunity to purchase a ticket prior to travelling.

Continual promotion and expansion of the Cambrian/Conwy Valley Orange Wallet scheme

The RDO recently met with the tutor and student from Coleg Cerdigion to further develop their social interaction skilling using the "Orange Wallet". The students went to the booking office and bought a ticket independently using their orange wallet. We then travelled to Machynlleth where the guard inspected their tickets to show them what happens when you travel independently. After their lunch, they continued their journey back to Aberystwyth this time with a different guard checking their ticket and relevant rail cards.

Attendance at local promotional events to encourage travel by rail

The RDO arranged two Christmas promotional events at both Caersws and Machynlleth where children from local schools were invited to decorate Christmas baubles for the stations Christmas trees. We then invited the children to the stations to decorate the tree with their baubles and for Christmas carol concert performed by the children.

They were lovely events with lots of members of the public attending, and passengers who were embarking and disembarking from their train journeys all commenting what a lovely traditional community event it was.

The County times local newspaper also attended the events.

Work with other agencies to raise awareness of rail safety.

We have now completed the joint level crossing safety film and this will be uploaded on to a USB stick and distributed to all local caravan and camping parks along the Cambrian Line.

There are also plans to meet with British Transport Police, Network Rail and TfW Rail Services in Q4 to look at how we can create a multi-agency approach to tackling rail safety issues in both primary and high schools in Q4.

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