

Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership



Partnership Report 2020 - 2022

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1. Message from the Chair, Sandy Walkington

This is my first report as the new Chair of the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership, a position to which I was elected at the last AGM in July 2021. Most of the activity reported this time was carried out under the aegis of my predecessor Derrick Ashley and I must begin by paying tribute to him. I worked closely with Derrick when he was Hertfordshire County Council's portfolio holder for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & Environment. In that role he was always inclusive and generous with his time. His passion for railways particularly shone out. He brought this enthusiasm to the Abbey Line and was able to use his influence to attract funding for various projects. His wisdom is much missed.



Like Derrick I am a County Councillor. My St Albans South division encompasses the northern end of the line and St Albans Abbey Station. Consequently, I have been an occasional user of the route and its stations since 1980 when I first came to St Albans and am now very proud to have taken on this new role with the CRP.

This 'annual report' covers a difficult period for the line with most of the period seeing no train service and a slightly

erratic rail replacement bus service instead. This had the dubious merit of demonstrating why fixed rail is preferable to road since the time taken for a bus to thread its way on congested roads between the stations has nullified any reason for people to use it. The challenge now is rebuilding confidence in the reliability of the rail service when there continue to be sudden cancellations of service because of the uptick in Covid infections affecting the availability of train crew.

In some ways it feels like we are at ground zero and it is a good opportunity to reassess what we are for. The Abbey Line CRP was one of the original six community rail partnerships. Now there are more than seventy round the country in many different shapes and sizes and it seem opportune to review whether we need to recalibrate what we do and make sure that we are properly representative of the communities served by the route.

One of the challenges coming over the horizon is the county council's vision of an east-west mass rapid transit ('HERT') connecting Hemel Hempstead and Harlow near or along the route of the A414. The Abbey Line route has been highlighted as a key part of this project by providing connectivity to St Albans and Watford. We know that there are those who have a gleam in their eyes about converting the route to a guided busway. We need to be firm that all evidence shows that fixed rail is the premium and preferred public transport mode and we should never countenance a degradation of service. In my capacity as chair, I have submitted this argument to the initial consultation about the HERT project.

Community Rail is seen as a key component in the new national vision for Great British Railways. The county council is committed to promoting active travel and getting people out of their cars. The Abbey Line has everything to play for and our task is to get the local communities on board and find the most effective ways of promoting the line.

Finally, my thanks to the members of the steering group, the wider stakeholder membership, our magnificent station adopters, and particularly Edna Woname, the community rail officer; Val Male, Hertfordshire County Council rail officer; and David Parry, my Vice-Chair. Together we will make the Abbey Line CRP a benchmark of success.

2. A message from Timothy Bellenger, Head of Stakeholder & Community, London Northwestern Railway

This year (2021/22) continued many of the themes of the previous year with the international pandemic dominating the personal and business lives of everyone. The Abbey Line was no exception, and out of necessity in the light of large-scale sickness amongst staff and the inability to train replacement train crew in a safe environment, meant that for several periods during the year buses had to substitute for trains.

Nevertheless, in this period there were a number of changes, that we were able to make that have benefitted passengers.

Firstly, we replaced the older class 319 trains (former Thameslink units) with newer more modern class 350s that are common with those used elsewhere on our network. Later, we revamped the timetable to make the operation more resilient and reliable, by making our crew rosters dedicated to the route, and by changing over the unit used every day. This included the introduction of a through service from London Euston at 2110 direct to St. Albans Abbey everyday Monday to Friday. This is the first such service operating in public since the Second World War.

Being able to change over the unit everyday has meant we can open the toilets for public use on the train without the complications of overflows etc, that the previous might have brought about had the toilets been open. Doing this addressed passengers concerns about the lack of toilet availability.

At stations we have finished the Community Rail Partnership's (CRP) project (funded by the Customers and Communities Investment Fund (CCIF)) to upgrade the shelters at How Wood and Watford North. Whilst at Bricket Wood, the project (funded by CCIF) to refurbish and convert the old station building into a Community Hub should finish later in 2022, and at Garston a community garden / wildlife space will be created.

The work of the CRP in promoting the line is really appreciated, as are the efforts of our volunteer station adopters and the input from the Abfly user group.

3. About the Abbey Line

The Abbey Line is a 6.5-mile-long railway that serves local communities between Watford Junction and St Albans Abbey. The train, known locally as the Abbey Flyer, also provides a link for those wishing to make onwards connections into London or to Milton Keynes and beyond.

The Abbey Line was the first railway that the ancient city of St Albans received. London & Northwestern Railway (LNWR) received parliamentary powers to construct the 6 mile, 32 chains long branch line on 11th February 1853. Work started in the early months of 1856 and the line was opened to public traffic on Wednesday 5th May 1858.

Being a branch line, trains were usually made up of 3 to 4 coaches and hauled by a tank engine until the branch was fully 'dieselised' for passenger trains in 1955.

July 2005 marked the designation of the branch as a 'Community Railway' under the government's 'Community Rail Development Strategy', launched in 2004.

The service is operated by London Northwestern Railway.

More on the history of the Abbey Line can be found on our website.



4. An Introduction to The Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership

Community Rail Partnerships provide a link between the railway and local communities. They are about positive development, bringing together a wide range of interests along the route.

The Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership was established in June 2005 and brings together a number of partner organisations with the purpose of increasing usage of the line.

It also aims to enhance station environments to make them a more pleasant place and to give the local community the opportunity to become more involved in their local railway line.

Community rail typically involves local people and organisations working in partnership to improve their local railways. Community Rail initiatives such as station enhancements and innovative promotional schemes can help get better value for money from the rail network.

This might include improving bus links to stations, developing walking and cycling routes, bringing station buildings back to life, art and educational projects, organising special events which promote the railway and its relevance to the community.

As per our Constitution, 'The Partnership is primarily a development and promotion group not a lobbying organisation', so our work and projects reflect this.

The Partnership in conjunction with Hertfordshire County Council and London Northwestern railway organises projects with local schools to help raise awareness, rail safety, careers in rail and introduction of the Abbey Line to young passengers all of which is ran in conjunction with the Children's' curriculum.

Current members of the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership are;

Abbey Theatre, Abfly (Rail Users Group), Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust, Communities 1st, Community Development Action (CDA), Hertfordshire County Council – also the current Hosts, Watford Borough Council, St. Albans BID, St. Albans City & District Council, St. Stephen Parish Council, AVANTI West Coast and the train operator London Northwestern Railway.

Observers from The Community Rail Network, Network Rail, Department for Transport and British Transport Police support and regularly attend steering group meetings.

The Community Rail Network (CRN) is the representative body which provides support, advice and information to the Community Rail sector, particularly through membership services and events.

The organisation is an advocate for community rail, providing a link between members and national and devolved governments, partners and industry. Government recognises the important role that CRN plays in helping to deliver strategic outcomes and is a key funder of the organisation. (Source: The Department for Transport)

5. Our Aims and Objectives

Aims

- To help secure the long-term future of the Abbey Line through a community-based partnership approach.
- To help link the railway more strongly with the communities it serves: to contribute to the economic, social and environmental well-being of local communities.
- To reduce road congestion in the area by enhancing the role of the local railway in delivering local and sustainable transport solutions.
- To deliver environmental benefits associated with a railway and reduced car usage.

Objectives

- To bring together a wide range of people from the local community, businesses, local government, railways, tourism and conservation to raise the profile of the Line.
- Through effective marketing, promote and increase rail travel on the line.
- To develop and improve links between rail and other forms of transport, including walking, cycling, buses and cars (park & ride).
- To develop projects that enhance station environments for local people and encourage the use of rail and which contribute to the social and economic life of the area.
- To engage with the local community to raise awareness of the opportunity for community involvement in the railway through station adoption.

6. Overview of our Work and Projects this period

The partnership undertakes numerous projects and events during the year including station adoption & volunteering, station enhancements, tourism (under our Abbey Line Days Out scheme, community engagement events, marketing and promotion and work in local schools. The work in schools was put on hold during the pandemic and we hope to continue in the forthcoming academic year.

Station Adoption & Volunteering

Crucial to keeping an eye on our unstaffed stations along the Abbey Line are our long-standing Volunteer Station Adopters.

Acting as the 'eyes and ears' locally for London NorthWestern Railway, our volunteers have continued to look after their local station environment on behalf of the communities that use them.

Regular checks highlight issues such as litter, graffiti, lights not working, faulty passenger information, emergency help points and any potential hazards at stations. Through regular station checks and sending in reports on their findings, train operator staff are alerted sooner to issues that need attention.

Thanks to our partner Communities 1st, we were joined by volunteers to assist with a number of projects. We also had volunteers from Network rail, London Northwestern Railway and new station adopters, Park Street Residents Association and MENCAP Watford.

This period the projects and events they have worked on are

- Planting work along Abbey Line Stations
- Station checks at Abbey Line stations
- Bee friendly Trust project at Watford Junction
- Making of the Abbey Line Days out video
- Summer fun day 2021
- Attend the National Community Rail Awards 2021
- Community Rail week





The Partnership also held a volunteer meet day, to re-connect with current and new volunteers, share ideas on new projects and events to promote the CRP and serve our local community. As well as formally acknowledge our new adopters Park Street Residents Association and Watford MENCAP.

Also In attendance were representatives from London Northwestern railway, Network Rail and Community Rail Network.



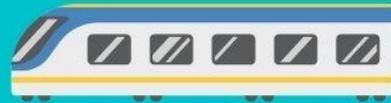
We look forward to hearing from local groups and Organisations that would like to work on the Abbey Line for community and volunteer days and projects.

Community Projects

Travel with Confidence with Watford Mencap & Building Better Opportunities

The delay to the start of our project with Watford MENCAP and Building Better Opportunities due to the covid-19 pandemic finally kicked off in early 2021.

The six-week step programme also in Partnership with the train operator LNR, is called 'Travel with Confidence'. This project has proven to be a great initiative helping young people learn about the railway, railway safety, visit a 'working station', learn how to use a ticket vending machine, read information boards, volunteering and more. The group also had the pleasure of visiting Birmingham courtesy of Avanti trains and the CRP, another opportunity to experience a different train and station.



Our Building Better Opportunities service recently supported people with a learning disability to develop their confidence using the train. We're proud of how well they did. These skills will help them towards employment, voluntary roles or further education.



With thanks to our partners in this project:



As a result of feedback of participants, the CRP also produced a pocket-sized train travel guide for the Abbey Line. This gives an overview of travelling on the line, where its doors open, information points and lots more. We hope to continue this programme for as long as necessary to help as many young people as we can to travel with confidence on our service.

In addition, the group have now adopted Watford North Station.

Station Enhancements

Most of the art works created by local schools 2020 are up at the stations, with a few more to go up at Garston station.

The plaques commissioned to go alongside the art could only be installed post-lockdown and are now in-situ.



Plaque for the artwork at Abbey Line stations

Station waiting areas and their environments along the line undoubtedly need improvement. The CRP Officer and London Northwestern Railway carried out station audits to determine what is needed to help make the stations more fit for purpose and welcoming. In our last report we stated that we identified the need for installation of self-watering planters at the stations and the need for upgraded passenger shelters at Watford Junction and How Wood stations. As reported then, we had been successful in bidding for funds via the Customer and Communities Improvement Fund. The waiting shelters work was contracted to London Northwestern railway and completed in early 2022.



Former Watford North waiting shelter

The design of the shelter included art designs done by the Grove Academy school (then Berrygrove school) back in 2015 which depicted positive messages and sustainable travel messages.



New Watford North waiting shelter



Above former How Wood waiting shelter, below newly installed shelter



Community Engagement & Events

We continue to have our fun Community Events to engage all ages and involve members of the community in 'rail' related events.

After a couple of reschedules we were able to hold our annual fun day in September 21 under Government guidelines.

This was headlined by Jive Swing with a theme of 'Reflection, Thanksgiving & Togetherness' with local food and entertainment including Random Mike, Teaching talons animal encounters, Girl guiding St Albans South, Waffle wands and Noviello ice-cream.

We were also honoured to have the Mayor & Mayoress of St Albans, the Deputy Lieutenant and other distinguished guests join us for a fun filled afternoon.

The occasion started with a clap to honour our front-line workers, those we lost in the pandemic and the togetherness of the community.

ABBEY LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP
presents the

4th Community Rail Fun Day

VINTAGE
(we have prizes to give away for best dressed)

REFLECTION, THANKS GIVING & TOGETHERNESS

12 to 3pm
Saturday
4th September
2021

St Stephen
parish green
Bricket Wood
AL2 3PJ

FREE ENTRY
ticket required

HEADLINE ACT
Jiveswing

Join us this year as we reflect, be thankful and celebrate being back together as a community. With a variety of information stands, food vendors and entertainment headlined by Jiveswing. Dress code (optional) Come dressed in 'vintage' style, and we have prizes for the best dressed. A fun day out for all the family.

Free entry but tickets required for admission. Book via our website events page.

www.abbeylinecommunityrail.org.uk

Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership

London Northwestern Railway

Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership



Deputy Lieutenant David Williams opening the event



Mayor of St Albans Cllr. Edgar Hill and his Mayoress at the event

We hope to resume the many exciting events that we are known for as soon as we're able to do so. The timescale and dates have had to be rescheduled, to ensure we adhere to Government guidelines. When we can confirm new dates, these will be posted on our website and social media platforms.



Our distinguished guests at the event, The Mayor of St Albans & his Mayoress, Dept. Lieutenant David Williams, Cllr. Ian Stotesbury, Chair Sandy Walkington & Jive Swing

Community Rail Week 2022



We took part in this years' community rail week and had a stall at the St Albans market on 25th May 22. It was a lovely opportunity to engage with the local community once again, including visitors who were visiting from South Africa and Santa Monica, USA and tell them all about the Abbey Line service, things to do along the line including our award-winning Abbey trail and the work we do including volunteering.



Jubilee celebrations were marked on the Abbey Line with the station benches at Watford Junction, Watford North and St Albans Abbey being decorated. These were platinum jubilee themed and done by The Gold Brush.



Marketing Activity and Abbey Line Days Out

Engagement via our social media platforms continues to grow and has been a positive way of promoting our events, meetings and news stories. This has been a great way of reaching Abbey Line passengers, visitors to events and engaging with the local community.

There is cross-promotional activity with local organisations such as Watford BID, St Albans BID, St Stephen Parish and nationally with Scenic Rail Britain.

In July 2021, we were part of the national campaign headed by Scenic Rail.



The Days Out by Rail campaign, launched in summer and led by Community Rail Network, was developed in response to the increased interest in domestic travel and staycations identified through Visit Britain's Consumer Sentiment Tracker. The report also recognised that rail travel was a considerably lower option compared to car use for leisure transport as Britain's lockdown restrictions started to lift.

In a move to help get local residents back on our train track, the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership also launched an awareness campaign 'What's on at the end of the line' to support our local communities and train service through our **Abbey Line Days Out** programme.

WHAT'S ON AT THE END OF THE LINE



#abbeylinedaysout

www.abbeylinecommunityrail.org.uk

The complex block contains a promotional graphic. At the top, the text 'WHAT'S ON AT THE END OF THE LINE' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, on the left, is a circular logo with a pink background and white text that reads 'ABBAY LINE DAYS OUT!'. The logo is surrounded by a decorative border of small train icons. To the right of the logo is a photograph of a group of five women standing on the open doors of a train. The women are dressed in a variety of styles, including a black dress, a patterned top, a white shirt, and a red top. The train is white with a green stripe and a 'D' logo on the door.

The campaign was aimed at rediscovering and discovering what's on at the end of the train line in Watford and St Albans, the two major towns on the route and the hidden gems in-between.

We commissioned a new leaflet as part of the campaign with suggestions from locals that know it best as well as colourful eye-catching posters depicting famous landmarks in the Abbey Line area. Both were designed by Nicky Thompson and its debut on social media received the most engagement we've had on our social media platforms.

The poster is displayed at the stations and a copy of the leaflet can also be downloaded from our website.





The Abbey Line Days out has a dedicated page on our website.

Abbey Line Days Out

There's lots going on along the Abbey Line, from walks and cycle paths to shopping and entertainment. So have a look at our list of events and things to do to see what's on at the end of the line!



Days out on the Abbey Line



There's lots to see and do around the Abbey Line area.

FILTER BY STATION ≡

Designed by: Lorraine King Creative

HOP ON BOARD AND RIDE THE

ABBAY LINE

for Amazing Days Out!

ST ALBANS ABBEY PARK STREET HOW WOOD BRICKET WOOD GARETON WESTFORD NORTH WESTFORD JUNCTION

For up to date information on 'what's happening at the end of the line', partner offers, and to download a copy of our attraction guide, visit our website at abbeylinecommunityrail.org.uk or drop us a line at info@abbeylinecommunityrail.org.uk

GET SOCIAL @ABBAYLINECRP

Abbey Line
Community Rail Partnership

SCENIC RAIL
BRITAIN



Approved by Partnership Committee

HOP ON BOARD AND RIDE THE

ABBEY LINE

for Amazing Days Out!



For up to date information on 'what's happening at the end of the line', partner offers, and to download a copy of our attraction guide, visit our website at abbeylinecommunityrail.org.uk or drop us a line at info@abbeylinecommunityrail.org.uk



GET SOCIAL @ABBEYLINECRP



To bring it all to life, we also worked with international jive band, Jiveswing, to create a fun informative video capturing key locations from Watford to St Albans. Our campaign was featured in the local paper, the Watford Observer.

USE TO THE FULL

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Rediscover Abbey Flyer

IN a move to help get residents back on trains, the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership is launching an awareness campaign to support communities and the service.

What's on at the end of the line? aims to show people what's going on at either end of the Abbey Lane as well root out the hidden gems in between.

To help with this, the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership has produced an Abbey Days out leaflet with suggestions from locals who know it best.

This includes posters and video featuring attractions and international dance band JiveSwing (*pictured*).

Partnership development officer Edna Woname said: "We're delighted to be able to promote attractions and events on our doorstep and encourage days out with friends and family by train as well as opportunities to explore scenic walking and cycling routes that our beautiful local countryside has to offer, such as the Abbey Line trail, commissioned by the Partnership in 2015 to promote scenic walks along the train route and healthy living.

"It has been a difficult year for many, which has included disruption to our local train service, but we are looking

to encourage the community to use the available services with confidence and support our local economy too."

Elected Mayor of Watford Peter Taylor said: "We're so pleased to be working with the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership, giving residents the opportunity to discover all the magical places that are tucked away across the region, over what looks to be a beautiful summer."

Visit abbeylinecommunityrail.org.uk for more details.

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Our promotional leaflet can be found at Watford Junction leaflet rack near platform 11, St Stephen parish centre, Bricket Wood or downloaded via our website. Please see resources at the end of this report for weblinks.

Community Rail Awards

The Community Rail Network has encouraged Community Rail Partnerships to enter despite the difficult period we had during the Covid 19 pandemic and celebrate and acknowledge the hard work and achievements of volunteers and Partnerships.

In 2020 we entered four categories for the awards and shortlisted for three. It was certainly a great achievement considering the amount and standard of entries. We won third place for 'Tourism Heritage Award' for our 'Christmas in St Albans by Community Rail' project.

In 2021 we entered three categories: Working with Diverse groups – Watford Mencap 'Travelling with Confidence, Best Communications – 'What's on at the end of the Line' and photo competition.

We were shortlisted in all three categories but narrowly missed a top three spot in two of these categories finishing in 4th place for both. A wonderful effort from all involved in our projects shortlisted.



Women in Community Rail

With the formation of Women in Community Rail 5 years ago, much has been done to support all with equality, inclusion and helping to highlight and address diversity imbalances within community rail. With that, a branch was opened in the South to make it geographically accessible to all. The Chair of the South branch is our Partnership Officer, Edna and Vice Chair is Val Male.

In the last year we have supported a number of campaigns



including 'show racism the red card' and during volunteers' week we also shared a slice of cake and 'equali-tea' bags with our volunteers on the line.



7. Accreditation

At previous AGMs, we have given an in-depth overview of the Government's Rail Strategy and the new process of Accreditation for CRP's.

As its foundation, the strategy supports community rail organisations themselves to flourish as inclusive, independent and sustainable groups so they are well placed to deliver the strategy's key pillars:

Providing a voice for the community

Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel

Bringing communities together and supporting diversity and inclusion

Supporting social and economic development

(Source: The Department for Transport)

Objectives of accreditation (in summary):

- Create a recognised mark of quality that confirms the CRP operates to high standards, adopts a collaborative approach, is a representative voice of their community, and publishes a clear annual plan of activity.
- Assist CRPs in approaching potential funders and partners.
- Support continual improvement among CRPs.
- Enable delivery of the Community Rail Development Strategy.

Requirements of accreditation (in summary)

- Consider and uphold the five key principles of accreditation (below), evidenced through their annual plan, and/or by having in place (or working towards) appropriate policies and procedures.
 - Have an appropriate, transparent governance structure and aim to ensure their governance is effective, fair and representative.
 - Have appropriate financial controls in place, including, for standalone CRPs, audited accounts published annually.
 - Use an effective review and planning cycle, using CRN's support and advice through its annual planning process.
 - Be a member of CRN and display its membership on its website.
- Once accredited, a CRP must:
- Display the accreditation mark online and in any major publications and encourage feedback externally.
 - Show willingness to working with CRN, Department for Transport, Welsh Government and other partners as relevant to resolve any issues or concerns with these requirements.

- Work with Community Rail Network to share lessons, ideas and good practice across community rail.

Key principles of accreditation (in summary)

1. Effective, beneficial engagement of the community
2. Transparency, openness, and ease of contact
3. Working in a safe, responsible, ethical manner
4. Collaborating constructively with the rail industry and local partners
5. Equality, diversity and inclusion

(Source: Community Rail Network)

We are pleased to say that the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership successfully achieved Accreditation status again this year. A letter was sent from the Department of Transport to the local MP's and Mayor of Watford to announce the news.



Community Rail

Accredited Partnership

2020-21

The Partnerships' continued success with achieving accreditation status each year since its inception is to be applauded.

8. Forthcoming projects & events

Garston Community garden - The space at Garston station is being designed to improve the space and create a nature garden to enhance the biodiversity of wildlife. It also offers space for small local groups to get together for gardening activities, or giving opportunities to learn about wildlife through watching birds, butterflies, bugs etc.

A public survey has been undertaken with a draft design of the proposed garden, with the local community invited to comment on this and other suggestions for consideration. From this a final design will be publicised and once the relevant permissions and designs have been approved, the work will be commissioned.

The Abbey trail re-launch. The award-winning nature walk commissioned by the CRP with Countryside management in 2015. The guide leaflet and map lecterns currently situated at St Abbey, How Wood, Bricket Wood and Park Street stations are being redesigned and replaced.

We intend to continue our station enhancement work as well during the year, replacing our CRP poster and information boards.

There are plans to have a Santa train this year, date to be confirmed.

9. London Northwestern Railway figures

Below are the passenger journeys and public performance measurement provided by London Northwestern Railway

Periods	No. of Days	Period end	Journeys	PPM	Reliability	PPM MAA
2021/P01	32	Sat 02/05/20	4,448	-	-	-
2021/P02	28	Sat 30/05/20	3,172	-	-	-
2021/P03	28	Sat 27/06/20	2,989	-	-	-
2021/P04	28	Sat 25/07/20	3,226	-	-	-
2021/P05	28	Sat 22/08/20	3,241	-	-	-
2021/P06	28	Sat 19/09/20	7,148	89.3%	95.2%	94.2%
2021/P07	28	Sat 17/10/20	8,551	84.6%	90.4%	93.1%
2021/P08	28	Sat 14/11/20	7,329	90.8%	93.2%	92.5%
2021/P09	28	Sat 12/12/20	7,248	89.8%	92.9%	92.2%
2021/P10	28	Sat 09/01/21	2,762	78.8%	78.8%	90.6%
2021/P11	28	Sat 06/02/21	2,065	-	-	-
2021/P12	28	Sat 06/03/21	2,229	96.7%	98.3%	90.6%
2021/P13	25	Weds 31/03/21	4,345	97.9%	98.6%	90.8%
Annual			58,753			

2022/P01	31	Sat 01/05/21	6,946	85.7%	89.6%	91.1%
2022/P02	28	Sat 29/05/21	7,489	85.7%	90.6%	91.0%
2022/P03	28	Sat 26/06/21	6,811	45.4%	90.9%	88.7%
2022/P04	28	Sat 24/07/21	5,868	88.9%	89.8%	88.1%
2022/P05	28	Sat 21/08/21	5,423	81.0%	82.3%	86.3%
2022/P06	28	Sat 18/09/21	7,278	85.2%	85.8%	84.8%
				On Time	T3	T15
2022/P07	28	Sat 16/10/21	10,285	62.6%	93.6%	97.8%
2022/P08	28	Sat 13/11/21	10,175	64.0%	91.9%	97.4%
2022/P09	28	Sat 11/12/21	10,482	65.1%	88.5%	98.1%
2022/P10	28	Sat 08/01/22	4,858	64.2%	90.8%	100.0%
2022/P11	28	Sat 05/02/22	4,225	-	-	-
2022/P12	28	Sat 05/03/22	8,682	69.8%	93.2%	99.8%
2022/P13	26	Thu 31/03/21				
Annual			88,522			

PPM* - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT
MAA* - MOVING ANNUAL AVERAGE

10. Finance information

FINANCE REPORT FOR 2021/22

Background

This report sets out the financial position for the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership (NRLCRP) for the financial year 2021/22 (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022).

Financial transactions and the recording of financial data has been undertaken by Hertfordshire County Council in its role as host organisation. The ALCRP's finances are held as a separate account within the county council's overall financial system.

Reports summarising the transactions for each quarter are provided to the ALCRP Steering Group meetings.

Summary for 2021/22

A summary of the ALCRP's finances for 2021/22 is set out in Table 1 below. Further details are shown in subsequent sections of this report.

Table 1 *Summary of 2021/22 Finances*

Carry over from 2020/21	(+) £151,189
Income in 2021/22	(+) £73,289
Expenditure in 2021/22	(-) £55,322
Carry over to 2022/23	(=) £169,156

Income

The principal source of income is from supporting organisations for the general running of the CRP. For 2021/22 this totalled £63,989 as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 General contributions to ALCRP (2021/22)

Organisation	2021/22 Contribution (£)
West Midlands Trains	44,382
Hertfordshire County Council	10,000
Watford Council	1,500
St Albans City & District Council	1,500
St Stephen Parish Council	250
Avanti West Coast	6,357
TOTAL	63,989

Additional income has been received for specific projects, as set out in Table 3.

Table 3 Income for specific projects (2021/22)

Source	Amount (£)	Description
West Midlands Trains	4,300	CCIF funding for planters
West Midlands Trains	3,500	LNR Small Grants for Garston Community Garden
West Midlands Trains	1,500	Community Rail Awards costs
TOTAL	9,300	

Total income for 2021/22 was thus £73,289.

Expenditure

The ALCRP expenditure for 2021/22 is summarised in Table 4. There was very limited expenditure on community projects due to the pandemic restrictions.

Table 4 Summary of 2021/22 Expenditure

	2021/22 Expenditure (£)
Hosting costs ⁽¹⁾	31,512.00
Other running costs (incl. development of website)	6,414.63
Community projects	17,396.07
TOTAL	55,322.70

(1) The hosting charge covers the employment costs, management and general training of the CRP Officer, and the administration of financial transactions and reporting.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

In addition to the financial contributions, the organisations set out below provide in-kind contributions to the CRP.

Organisation	In-kind Contribution
Watford Borough Council	Provision of office space for CRP officer
St Stephen Parish Council	Meeting space 4 times a year, use of parish centre for one special event a year
Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust	Future use of Bricket Wood building
Communities 1 st St Albans	Volunteers for ALCRP Projects and events

ABBAY LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

2022/23 OUTLOOK

May 2022

Summary of 2022/23 Finances

Table 1 Summary of Forecast 2022/23 Finances

Funds at 27/4/22	£172,735
Forecast income	£56,984
Forecast expenditure	£76,372
Forecast balance at 31/3/23	£153,347

Income

Table 2 Expected contributions for 2022/23

Organisation	2022/23 Contribution (£)
West Midlands Trains	36,325
Hertfordshire County Council	10,000
Watford Council	1,500
St Albans City & District Council	1,500
St Stephen Parish Council	500
Avanti West Coast	7,159
TOTAL	56,984

Amendments:

10/5/22 - St Stephen Parish Council contribution increased from £250 to £500.

Expenditure

Table 3 Expected expenditure for 2022/23

Activity	Expected Expenditure (£)
Hosting costs	31,512
CRN Membership	150
Website hosting	825
Miscellaneous expenditure	1,000
Annual costs sub total	33,487
2022/23 projects	42,885
TOTAL	76,372

Appendix 1 2022/23 ALCRP Projects

Project	Cost (£)
Re-launch of Abbey Trail Walk	9,000
Jubilee Celebration Benches	2,450
Garston Garden	25,000
Volunteers Day / Accreditation	935
Community Rail Week	1,000
Chairman's Away Day	500
Christmas Event	4,000
TOTAL	42,885

*Includes known projects as of 6 May 2022.
Some project costs are "guesstimates".*

11. Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership Members 21/22



Supported by:



12. Resources and links

- Visit our website www.abbeylinecommunityrail.org.uk

- Our social media pages

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/abbeylinecrp/>

Twitter @abbeylinecrp

- Download Abbey line Days Out leaflet and watch our fun video
<https://abbeylinecommunityrail.org.uk/days-out/>

- London Northwestern Railway

For train times, tickets and customer service contact
Website: www.londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

- Avanti West coast trains
For train times, tickets and customer service contact
Website: www.avantiwestcoast.co.uk

- Community Rail Network
Website: www.communityrail.org.uk

- Network rail
For information on railway maintenance in your local community /near your home
<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities>

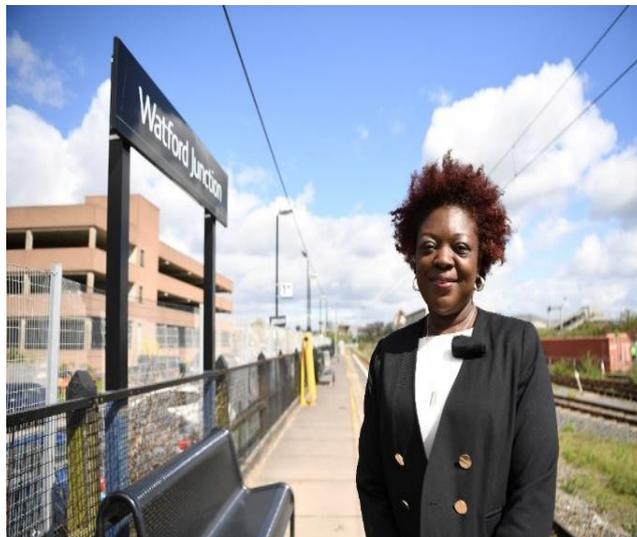
CRP Contact Information

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Edna Woname - Partnership Development Officer

13. Picture Gallery



Wafford MENCAP on Travel with Confidence station visit and below on our way to Birmingham courtesy of Avanti trains





Summer fun day September 2021



Volunteers working at our stations



Filming of the Abbey Line Days Out video





Bee Friendly project at Wafford Junction station