



Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership

# **A Vision for Rail - Creative Partnership Working and Community Rail**

## **People, Passion and the Railway**

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Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership

## ***What is Community Rail?***

Community Rail involves local people in the development and promotion of local and rural routes, services and stations. It also encourages the community to get directly involved improving the railway environment through use of redundant buildings, provision of additional services such as cafes and the improvement of railway land.

In most respects, community rail routes are no different from the rest of the railway.

<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/asp/983.aspx>

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**Community rail lines and services are part of the commercial rail network accounting for around 40 million journeys per year.**

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Community railways aim to:

- **Increase revenue**
- **Reduce costs**
- **Increase community involvement**
- **Support social and economic development**



## Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership

Support is usually provided through a Community Rail Partnership (CRP) comprising the railway operator, local councils and other community organisations. Around **4,000 volunteers work** in community rail contributing over 1.2 million hours of work, bringing around **£27 million of extra value** to the rail industry. Research has shown that for every **£1 invested in a CRP it can bring £4.60 in benefits.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/expanding-and-improving-the-rail-network/supporting-pages/community-rail>

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## Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership

The Association of Community Rail Partnerships – ACoRP – is a federation of over 50 community rail partnerships and rail promotion groups.

We are an organisation of ‘do-ers’, focused on practical initiatives which add up to a better more sustainable local railway. Improved station facilities, better train services and improved integration with other forms of transport are central to the work of ACoRP and its members.

<http://www.acorp.uk.com/>

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# Community Rail Designation

The Department for Transport has designated a number of routes as 'Community Railways'. Designations are intended to clarify expectations and aspirations for the line.

Designation can be either '**Line**' or '**Service**'; most are both for at least part of the route. 'Service' is generally used where there is heavy freight use or the line is part of a 'Trans European Network' (TEN) route.

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**Line Designation** identifies the line as:

- primarily local in nature and is intended to take it outside the scope of EU conventional rail interoperability regulations
- one which is primarily low speed with light use on which it is appropriate to review maintenance practices and standards
- one carrying designated services

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**Service Designation:** changes the approach to franchise management, with more freedom given to the train operator working with the local community rail partnership.

Service designation would include relevant stations, i.e. stations that are exclusive to the designated service and generally local in character.

37 lines or services designated as community rail routes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-rail-routes>

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## **Creative Partnership Working**

**creative** - adjective

relating to or involving the use of the imagination or original ideas to create something.

<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/creative>

## **Partnership working**

*“...the quality and cost effectiveness of services can be significantly improved when organisations work well together.”* Audit Commission <http://archive.audit-commission.gov.uk/auditcommission/sitecollectiondocuments/AuditCommissionReports/NationalStudies/fruitfulpartnership.pdf>

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# **Creative Partnership working in Community Rail**

Scholar cyclists on the MCL

Rail Walks

Hooton Helsby 150

Over By Christmas



## Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership

**Rail Today** - exciting times - investment & change!!

- Northern Hub
- Electrification
- Rail North & Devolution
- Re-franchising
- Merseyrail/Merseytravel strategy
- HS2

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## **A Vision for Rail:**

- Adopting Bob the Builder's attitude of "yes we can!!"
- Can do, how can we rather than no we can't
- Creative Partnership Working by every train operator at stations (key gateways in & out of communities)
- Involving residents, rail user groups, councils, parish, town, borough, county & other key partners in the area

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## **A Vision for Rail:**

- A rail world where imaginative, original thinking & ideas flourish
- Utilising local knowledge, local passion, local volunteers & businesses to do things better
- To do more with less
- Customers, Communities, Communication, Connectivity, Continuous Improvement

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**Creative Partnership  
Working & Community Rail:  
People, Passion & the Railway**

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