

# Customer and Community Improvement Fund 2026/27

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**Front cover image:** Loco Klub's project delivered a complimentary high-quality, theatrical and multimedia experience in the form of an educational immersive show for primary school-aged children. Approximately 330 people visited the venue over the two weeks the show ran. Schools learnt about local and national railway history, as well as creatively thinking about what the railway means to them, and its future. The show was then re-run for families in the school holidays over four weeks, attracting hundreds more people. Those who participated learnt about the importance of railway travel for industry, media and society, that women play an equal part in the design and running of the railways, the importance of branch lines connecting smaller communities to the larger cities, the vital part that rail plays for future generations and sustainability and a basic understanding of steam power and suspension bridge design.

Photo credit: Sam Patching @sam\_jp

# Welcome

GWR is delighted to announce we are inviting funding bids for customer and community projects that relate to rail.

In financial year 2025/26 we supported 89 projects across the GWR network, supporting customers, charities, community groups and voluntary organisations to deliver benefit in the communities we serve. We're pleased to open the bidding for the next financial year 2026/27 and have shared some more information here about what we can support and how you can make a successful bid.

This handbook outlines what the Customer and Community Improvement Fund is, the type of projects we can support, what we can't support, the application process and how to contact us should you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing a wide range of bids for rail related projects from across our network.



**Calstock In Bloom's** project objective was to record the historical importance of the Tamar Valley market gardening industry, and the impact the railways had in delivering produce to market. Working closely with Calstock Archives, a mural was created to capture the rich history of the Tamar Valley market gardening industry, which at its height in the 1950's employed around 1,000 people to deliver a vibrant range of produce including daffodils, irises, strawberries, apples, pears and cherries. The produce was then transported across the UK via the 'Fruit & Flower' trains that left the valley four times a day. The impressive mural now adorns the walls of Calstock station shelter, as a warm welcome to visitors to the area.

# About the Customer and Community Improvement Fund

Great Western Railway's Customer and Community Improvement Fund supports rail related projects that have a customer and community benefit or address an area of social need, in a community we serve.

Social need is defined as having a benefit or providing support to wider society or specific groups that promotes health, wellbeing, equality or opportunity in ways which are not primarily for the commercial gain of either the promoting organisation or the railway.

Our Customer and Community Improvement Fund is designed to support small and medium rail related projects that can be completed over the course of the 2026/27 financial year. We are particularly interested in schemes that benefit customers, increase rail travel, encourage carbon reduction, connect communities, people and places, support economic growth, promote inclusion and diversity, and educational programmes that support careers in rail or increase awareness and experience of public transport and rail safety. A good bid will show a strong level of community involvement and support and the proposal will have benefits that last beyond the duration of the project.

## **PL24 Community Association**

installed a bench and planters which means there is now somewhere comfortable for people to sit while waiting for a bus at Par station.

The bench is ideally located on the walking route from St Blazey and Tywardreath towards Par, the beaches and the South West Path and the colourful new planters complement the existing boat planter, offering a cheerful welcome to those arriving in Par.





**Avonmouth Community Centre Association** used their funding to develop a wellbeing project focused on gardening, growing food, and connecting people through green space - all inspired by the story of the Railway.

The Secret Garden, located beside the platform at Avonmouth station, has been providing fresh produce to the community centre and local residents for several years, while also offering valuable volunteering opportunities.

This project reconnects with the past by growing heritage vegetables and culturally relevant foods that reflect

the diverse backgrounds of the local community - in an area where food poverty is a real issue.

Just as the Railway and Port brought new people, produce, and ideas to Avonmouth over the last 200 years, the garden promotes cultural exchange and community resilience - nurturing both the land and those who care for it.



# What makes a successful application

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We welcome a wide range of applications, particularly from organisations who haven't worked with us previously or who propose innovative projects.

This could be a Local Authority, a registered charity or community interest company, school or college or a community or voluntary group. We would very much like to see applications from every corner of our network.

**PLEASE NOTE Bids must be related to the railway and proposals which don't relate in some way to customers (or potential customers), stations, railway property, rail services, rail education or careers in rail will not be considered.**

**Bids which involve installations at stations e.g. murals, artwork, signage, wayfinding, platform furniture etc, will require consultation with us before bid submission. Please contact us on [community.fund@gwr.com](mailto:community.fund@gwr.com) to discuss further.**

The list below identifies some of the categories of projects we are looking for.

## **Educational**

Programmes which deliver safety education, promote the rail industry as a positive career choice, reduce crime, support vocational skills training for young people or other marginalised groups, or increase awareness of local public transport. A good bid will contain details of how the project will continue in the years following the funding provision if required.

## **Promoting rail travel**

Promoting train services or providing information that will help marginalised groups use rail services. A good bid will encourage further use of public transport and make it easier to access and use train services. This could include holding events or community activities that promote the use of rail travel.

## **Great Western history and heritage**

Enriching the community through developing historic links with the Great Western network. A good bid will show how the project links to GWR's heritage and increases educational awareness of our rich history.

## **Underrepresented groups**

We are looking for any projects that promote inclusion and diversity, including activities to promote groups who are typically underrepresented in the rail industry workforce, including women and girls and those from an ethnically diverse background. A good bid will show how the activity will help GWR to be a more diverse and inclusive employer.

## **Walking and cycling**

Promoting walking and cycling links to and from stations. A good bid will detail convenience, potential numbers of users and how the facility will be maintained in years to come.

## Accessibility

Aiding groups who may feel unable to use train services as part of daily life, to reduce social isolation and to showcase rail. This includes both infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects that improve the rail experience of people with disabilities and other specific needs. A good bid will demonstrate the ongoing positive impact on individuals from participating in the project or the impact the proposed changes will have.

Please note GWR runs Try a Train activities for individuals and groups, building confidence with rail travel. There is more information at [GWR.com](http://GWR.com).

## Disused buildings

Bringing back into use a building, on or near the station, for the benefit of our customers and the community. Good submissions will consider the building's future potential, how it will assist the community, and how the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities will be managed in the years to come.

## Public transport integration

Encouraging integration between public transport modes to benefit customers and communities. A good bid will aim to quantify benefits, explain how this

will benefit the local community and have identified other relevant public transport operators and stakeholders to integrate with.

## Promotion and wayfinding

Improving information to make using rail easier for customers and promoting services through signs, posters, social media, film and music. A good bid will identify the issue being addressed and show who will benefit.

## Project Feasibility

We offer up to one year of seed funding to help projects reach a 'shovel-ready' stage for future delivery. Projects must fit at least one of our stated categories and focus on planning, design, and cost assessment. Funding now does not guarantee future support, but it strengthens your chances with GWR or other funders.

**Example:** Improving a walking route from the station to the community, where costs and design options are still unclear. A strong proposal will show how the funding will prepare the project for delivery and outline potential future funding sources.

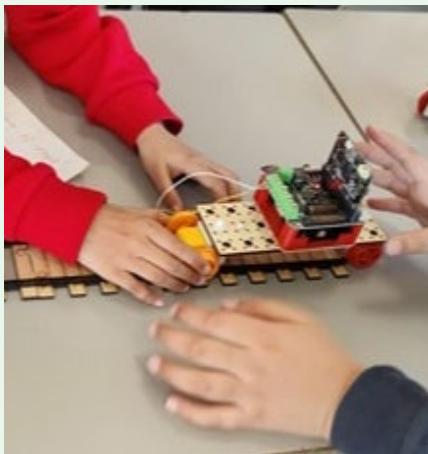


**South Gloucestershire Council** received funding to install twenty new weatherproof bike lockers at Yate in the station car park, offering secure bike storage for regular train users. The project was delivered with support from GWR and Severnside CRP with the aim to make it easier and safer for residents to combine cycling with rail travel. A promotional campaign was also run to raise awareness and encourage more people to cycle to the station with the Council encouraging residents to apply to hire a bike via its website.

## Projects must:

- Be delivered by your organisation. This fund is not to finance projects that will be delivered by GWR.
- Be within our network area, please see map on pages 16-17 - for the purposes of the Customer and Community Improvement Fund projects must be in a local authority served or passed through by GWR.
- Deliver a benefit to customers or the community and be aligned to one of the categories above. Projects can address more than one of the categories and those that do will be judged positively.
- Have an organisational bank account.

- Consider the time it will take to deliver the project. When reviewing your delivery plan, please factor in appropriate time for project initiation including start up agreements. We strongly suggest your project is deliverable within a 8 month window from initiation.
- Have all permissions required for project delivery, this might include permission from the Station Manager, Network Rail or Planning Permission. Please contact us to talk through what you might need.
- Any projects at railway stations i.e. artwork or installations must have gained appropriate permissions from GWR/Network Rail before bids are considered.



**Education and Skills Development Group (ESDEG)** used the funding to provide innovative and inclusive railway STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) clubs in Southall. The clubs, held at North Primary and Hambrough Primary schools during the 2024/25 academic year, were delivered by technology mentors, including an inventor/computer scientist, a PhD student, and university students. The project has benefited around 80 students as a way of addressing the attainment gap and the critical STEM skills shortage costing the UK £1.5 billion/year (IMechE, 2018). Students have engaged in a huge range of learning activities, including design, 3D-printing and coding robots and trains, with many of them taking their work home to proudly share with friends and family.

### Projects must not;

- Request more than the maximum value of £25,000. The average bid award last financial year was £11,500.
- Project Management costs cannot exceed 20% of the total value of your bid.
- Duplicate existing projects already funded by GWR or the rail industry, including Try a Train confidence building activities or training for GWR staff.
- Use funding to support organisational overheads, including ongoing salary costs, which are not directly related to project delivery.
- Require ongoing funding beyond March 2027, unless committed from elsewhere.
- Generate commercial benefit for the organisation bidding or directly for GWR.
- Request funding for Rail Travel.
- Apply for sponsorship of events/teams (including kit and/or equipment) or award evenings.
- Apply for funding for building renovation work (unless it is at a station), solar panels, kitchens, roof repairs, furniture or major equipment.

### Projects could;

- Have matched funding, this would be beneficial but is not required. Any supporting funding should be clear about conditions associated and whether this has already been committed.
- Be less than £1,000 in value – it would be great to see a variety of small-scale projects providing local benefit across our network.
- Be delivered by Schools, Colleges or Universities; projects working in education can be delivered until the end of the academic year - July 2027.



**Severnside CRP's** project used social media to promote doing Bristol's Gromit Unleashed 3 sculpture trail by public transport. A series of Instagram Reels by influencer Ben Parsons showcased how to explore the trail via train, bus, ferry, and bike. The content also highlighted local attractions and businesses. In addition, a free train trip for local families included a hands-on plasticine workshop after which families continued their hunt for statues across the city.

## Let's Talk Travel Project

**Grant awarded: £5,780**

Project delivered by:



### General Overview of the Project

The Let's Talk Travel (LTT) project was designed to address travel-related barriers that prevent job seekers, especially young people, women, and marginalized groups, from accessing education and employment opportunities. Research indicates that 40% of job seekers avoid opportunities requiring travel due to issues such as anxiety, lack of confidence, financial constraints, and logistical difficulties. Additionally, many face challenges in journey planning, which further hinders their ability to consider transport as a viable option.

LTT aimed to raise awareness of public transport options and build confidence among job seekers in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. The project distributed resources on travel confidence and sustainable transport, engaging with 269 job seekers and 99 professionals across 8 job fairs and community events across both counties. The events offered valuable outreach opportunities to research, understand and address community travel needs, where feedback was collected on the transport barriers faced, with particular focus on young people and marginalized groups.

### Project Delivery

The project was implemented through a multi-faceted approach designed to engage job seekers, particularly young people, women, and those from marginalized backgrounds, in building their travel confidence. By integrating community outreach, resource development, collaboration with key partners, and data collection, the initiative provided targeted support while gathering valuable insights into the most pressing travel-related challenges faced by job seekers and offering supportive travel confidence advice.



### Project Impact

The project successfully supported job seekers in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire by addressing key travel-related barriers, increasing confidence in using public transport, and promoting access to education, employment, and training opportunities. The outcomes of the project include:

Increased Travel Confidence Among Job Seekers

Greater Awareness and Use of Sustainable Transport Options

Strengthened Support Networks and Service Provision

Improved Understanding of Transport Barriers

Development and Distribution of Practical Resources

Increased Engagement and Opportunities for Job Seekers

*The Robin is a game changer for people getting to places they weren't able to before. Its made a massive difference. If that could be expanded further, that would be great.*

*I'm too nervous to ask for help with my travel costs with my jobcoach.*

*I get overwhelmed at train stations because they're so busy. So this leaflet is really helpful and I always miss my stop too.*

## Platforms for Change (Scouts) Project

**Grant awarded: £13,900**

Project delivered by:



### General Overview of the Project

Delivery of the Go Train education project generated interest from local Scout groups along the North Downs Line. Education officers at Southeast Communities Rail Partnership had identified Scout groups who could benefit from a Go Train delivery of rail travel safety training, confidence building and highlighting local rail services on the line. The project plan was to deliver to three Scout groups, across three terms (in one financial year). The Scout groups would be engaged outside of the competing demand of the school environment, which will deliver the project to a new audience.

### Project Delivery

Project delivery started in May 2024 working with the Crowthorne Beavers group with three safety workshops aimed at different age groups. The safety workshop was delivered to the group in their Scout Hut. The next part of the programme included a visit to Reg's Garden at Farnborough North Station. Several different activities, including a Scavenger Hunt, were included in this trip. Other activities included reusing hot chocolate coffee cups as plant pots to plant seeds and building bird boxes. The last part of the programme was a train trip to Guildford and a station visit (including four activities at the station including buying tickets, reading the departure boards and a platform tour).

### Project Impact

New resources were developed to support engagement with a broader range of age groups. Relationships have been established with local Scout groups, who may collaborate on future initiatives. Previously unaware of Reg's Garden, these Scout groups are now connected with the volunteers who maintain the space and are hopeful about participating in upcoming community garden projects.

*“The best part of the visit to Reg's Garden was giving my Scouts the opportunity to use a community garden and to be able to get involved. The loved the Scavenger Hunt in the dark!”*

*“We have loved the whole partnership through Platforms for Change. The activities tick off a lot of badge work and were enjoyed by all. Thank you!”*



# 'Our Home' Bath Spa Community Art Scheme

Project delivered by:



**Grant awarded: £2,210 + additional matched funding from CrossCountry Trains**

## General Overview of the Project

Severnside Community Rail Partnership (SCRP) were looking for opportunities for community engagement at Bath Spa Station and an area was identified as a suitable location for a creative display. Over the following year, they engaged several local community groups through their travel confidence scheme, Days Out By Train and from this, a relationship with Bath Welcomes Refugees (BWR) blossomed. Learning more about BWR's programme, it became clear that there was an opportunity to facilitate creative workshops with them, and to produce new artworks for display at the station would be a mutually beneficial idea. The final launch took place in November 2024 and the works are on permanent display within the station.

## Project Delivery

The project theme was 'Our Home', with the aim of generating images and conversations about what home means. What reminds us of home and what makes a place a home. SCRP created a steering group for the project, and this group set out the scope of the project and what the delivery would look like. This informed the funding applications and the artists' brief. Once funding was secured, SCRP took responsibility to ensure all permission were in place for the installation and drafted the call out for an artist.

Local artist Kurda Yar Kurda was selected from the shortlist due to her experience of working with the refugee community and her considerate planning for the participants. Working with SCRP and BWR, she coordinated three workshop dates to coincide with the regular BWR activities, enabling more of the families to engage. The refugees and recently settled participants were mainly Ukrainian, Syrian and Afghan. To make the project welcoming to all, the posters were translated into six different languages; English UK into Pashto, Dari, Chinese HK, Chinese ZH, Arabic and Ukrainian. These were circulated by BWR with their service users and local contacts.

Following the workshops, the final 70 artworks were scanned and curated by Kurda. She selected some as a stand alone pieces, while others were collaged into new artworks by Kurda, imitating ornate tapestry and rugs from her home country of Iraq.

## Project Impact

Our ongoing relationship with Bath Welcomes Refugees has become stronger and we are in conversation with them to include rail confidence trips as part of their regular engagement with refugees. The art works have received positive feedback and opened conversations about Bath's response to welcoming refugees to the city. Several members of the public were keen to learn more about Bath Welcomes Refugees and see how they could support the organisation. Kurda Yar and BWR have used the art works to make prints and cards to help fundraise for the charity.

*This artwork will provide an eye-catching display for the thousands of customers passing through the station in the run-up to Christmas. We would like to congratulate artist Kurda Yar, Bath Welcomes Refugees and Severnside Community Rail Partnership for bringing such a meaningful project to fruition."*

*"The project has been a wonderful opportunity for positive representation of people Bath Welcomes Refugees supports. Everyone enjoyed participating in the workshops and their work has been beautifully combined and integrated into the finished pieces."*



# Railway Heritage Project

Project delivered by:



**Grant awarded: £9,000**

## General Overview of the Project

The Railway Heritage project, led by South West Wales Connected Community Rail Partnership, was dedicated to celebrating and preserving the rich railway heritage of the South West Wales region. Through a series of community-focused gatherings at local railway stations and event spaces, the project brought together railway enthusiasts, historians, museums, and the general public to share knowledge, stories, and a collective passion for trains and the history surrounding them.

## Project Delivery

The inaugural meeting took place in Swansea in January 2024, followed by a successful event in Llanelli in May 2024, with a gathering in Neath in November 2024 due to growing interest. We put together a celebration event for Railway 200 in March 2025 to celebrate the Mumbles railway and also created an audio heritage walk from Swansea train station.

## Project Impact

At each of these events, attendees had the opportunity to explore the region's history and its broader vision. Participants were invited to contribute their unique perspectives and showcase photographs or projects, whether they were

long-time history buffs, creative minds, or train enthusiasts. The gatherings foster an inclusive environment where people of all backgrounds could connect over a shared love for railway heritage. Through this project, South West Wales Connected has succeeded in creating a welcoming space where individuals and groups can informally engage with their local railway history, preserving stories and memories for future generations.

*Absolutely ace event today. Put us down for next year because it has to be repeated. It was one of the best networking events we have ever encountered. Well done for all your efforts and the way in which you kept chasing and chivvying up us all. As for the weather? I have never been so excited at the erroneous nature of the weather forecast. Keep in touch and well done again.*



## How to apply

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Applications must be made online through [GWR.com](http://GWR.com).

We have kept the application form as simple as possible, with strict word limits. If we need more information, we will contact you. Please make sure your answers are targeted on the question asked and support the criteria set out in this guidance. Our team are available to help with questions on bidding and the process.

The two key points you must address in your application is **how your project relates to the railway**, bids that have no connection to the railway are not eligible, and your project **must be deliverable before 31 March 2027**

unless a bid by a School, College or University where projects must be completed by July 2027.

If you would like a copy of the application questions and/or the opportunity to speak to someone about your bid before you submit it please contact **Community.Fund@GWR.com**.

We very much want to receive bids from everyone who wants to apply so we will also accept video or audio bids. These bids can take longer to process so please get in touch with the team if you'd like to submit a bid in this format.

## What happens next

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Once you have submitted your application it will be reviewed and considered for funding.

### Projects will be classified as:

#### **Successful**

The project is one we would like to fund. We will contact you to confirm some more details and get things moving.

#### **Potential**

We like the project; however, we have some reservations and would like you to answer some further questions before we can consider its potential for this year.

#### **Unsuccessful**

The project is not successful. We will try and tell you this quickly as possible.

We will be back in touch with bidders as soon as possible after the deadline. We may need to arrange a visit to site, ask for more information or clarifications to help with the decision process.

Successful bids will need to sign a funding agreement with GWR, provide their financial details and provide regular updates on delivery during the project. There is also a contractual requirement for an end of project report.

# Scoring of bids

Projects must relate to the railway and bids will only be judged against the information provided on the application form. Bid criteria include:

- **Alignment with Customer and Community Improvement Fund categories** – Does the project deliver a benefit for one (or more) of the categories in the guidance. Projects will need to identify a primary category.
- **Addressing Social Need** – Bids should identify who in the community will benefit and how their project will deliver social benefit.
- **Level of Community Engagement** – Bids should identify how well supported the project is from members of the community and its beneficiaries. Bids that can evidence strong support from the community will be highly scored. Where bids can demonstrate excellent engagement in delivery this will also score well.
- **Deliverability** – All projects must be completed by 31 March 2027 unless a bid by a School, College, or

University where projects must be completed by July 2027. Bids should have clear objectives and a plan of action outlining how the objectives will be met and how the project will be delivered within this funding period. Bids that can demonstrate a robust delivery programme, and where risks are known and managed, or where there are no significant barriers to implementation, will be scored highly.

- **Legacy** - Bids should identify, where possible, any lasting benefits to the community or individuals involved. Projects which result in demonstrable lasting benefits will be most highly scored. Examples might include help securing a job or saving a life.
- **Availability of matched funding** - Matched funding is not essential however, bids which have secured match funding will be prioritised.



**Buckinghamshire Council's Culture Development Team**, delivered a project, 'Follow the Donkey', which celebrates the heritage and local environment

of the Marlow/Bourne End railway line - which is affectionately known as the Marlow Donkey. Creative workshops with community groups and local people were held to learn about the Marlow Donkey, explore community connection and contribute to a local exhibition, informing the design of the walking trail information and heritage boards.

We often receive a lot of high-quality bids, unfortunately we can't support them all with the funding we have available. All bids will be scored on the above criteria and there will be a review process to ensure projects are distributed across the GWR network and across the different areas we are supporting. Decisions will be communicated as soon as reasonably practical and will be final.

# GWR CRP Route Map

Yate Black station name - managed by GWR or NR

Iver Grey station name - managed by another TOC

○ Station not currently part of a CRP

● Devon & Cornwall CRP

● Gloucestershire CRP

● Oxfordshire CRP

● Reading Basingstoke CRP

● Severnside CRP

● South East CRP

● South West Wales Connected CRP

● South Wessex CRP

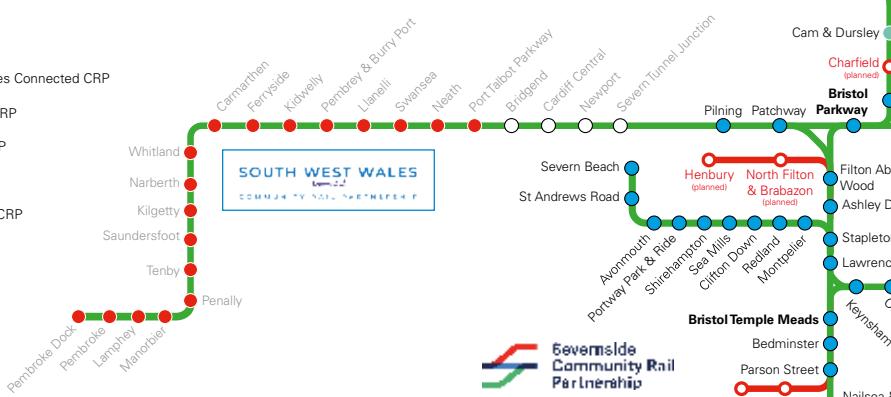
● Three Rivers CRP

● TransWilts CRP

● Worcestershire CRP



## South Wales



 **Severnside**  
Community Rail Partnership

## West region

### Devon & Cornwall RAIL PARTNERSHIP





# Community Rail

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Community rail is a growing grassroots movement made up of community rail partnerships (CRPs) and groups across Britain.

CRPs engage communities and help people get the most from their railways, promoting social inclusion and sustainable healthy travel, working alongside train operators to bring about improvements, and bringing stations back to life.

All CRPs have an impact on people's lives in different ways. Your station area might be covered by a CRP, or it may not, we support volunteering at all our stations regardless.

GWR works with, and supports 11 Community Rail Partnerships across our network and welcomes and encourages station adoption.

## Who we work with

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### **Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership**

The Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership Community Rail brings together local authorities, GWR and others to support the counties' branch lines – benefiting local communities and the region's economy alike. Find out more about Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership: [dcrp.org.uk](http://dcrp.org.uk)

### **North Downs Line – part of the Southeast Communities Rail Partnership**

The North Downs Line works with the community to encourage people to travel by train. From engaging with train companies to improve services to working with schools and businesses, their vision is that everyone should feel the local railway is theirs. Find out more about North Downs Line:

[southeastcrp.org/line/north-downs-line/](http://southeastcrp.org/line/north-downs-line/)

### **Three Rivers CRP**

The Three Rivers Partnership is a group of local authorities, people, and train companies. It works to promote train and bus services and improve stations and services. The train routes it covers run alongside, or cross, the Avon, Itchen, and Test rivers. The 'Three Rivers'. Find out more about Three Rivers CRP: [threeriversrail.com](http://threeriversrail.com)

### **TransWilts CRP**

TransWilts Community Rail Partnership supports the Swindon to Westbury route. They aim to represent local rail users and encourage and promote more use among those living and working in Wiltshire.

Find out more about TransWilts CRP: [transwilts.org](http://transwilts.org)

### **Severnside CRP**

The Severnside Community Rail Partnership is a Community Interest Company and covers all the lines radiating from Bristol. The main aspect of their work is ensuring that the 25, mainly unstaffed, local stations provide a safe and welcoming environment. Find out more about Severnside CRP: [severnside-rail.org.uk](http://severnside-rail.org.uk)

### **South West Wales Connected CRP**

Connecting Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Swansea & Neath Port Talbot for Sustainable Travel, Tourism, Leisure, Business & Well-Being. Their aims are to innovate and develop new ways of working, to create greater economic, social and environmental value for communities served by the railway and for the wider region. Find out more about South West Wales Connected CRP: [southwestwales.co](http://southwestwales.co)

### **Worcestershire CRP**

Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership works with local businesses, communities, and train companies to improve the 18 stations in the county and encourage rail use. Through these links, it aims to help make local rail sustainable, viable, and enjoyable. Find out more about Worcestershire CRP: [wcrp.org.uk](http://wcrp.org.uk)

### **Gloucestershire CRP**

Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership activities focus on 'bottom- up' community outreach, community events and activities through to key input into strategic land use planning decisions, connectivity of bus and cycle routes to stations,

and behaviour change. Find out more about Gloucestershire CRP: [gloucestershirecommunityrail.org](http://gloucestershirecommunityrail.org)

### **Reading Basingstoke CRP**

Rail services between Reading and Basingstoke are key interchanges with other routes across the country. The community rail partnership work with GWR to promote stations and services, integrated transport solutions, building communities and enhancing local tourism along with promoting destinations. Find out more about Reading Basingstoke CRP: <https://readingbasingstokecrp.co.uk/>

### **South Wessex CRP**

South Wessex Community Rail Partnership covers the Heart of Wessex Line south of Westbury, including all the stations and stops from Frome to Weymouth. The CRP actively works in connecting local communities to their railway and promotes travel and use of the whole line, from Bristol southwards. Find out more about South Wessex CRP [southwessexcrp.org.uk](http://southwessexcrp.org.uk)

### **Oxfordshire CRP**

Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership is committed to improving access to sustainable transport, particularly supporting inclusion of under-represented groups. The CRP takes a grassroots approach, empowering local communities to harness the transformative potential of rail connectivity, while bolstering sustainable tourism in the region. Find out more about Oxfordshire CRP: [www.oxfordshirecommunityrail.org/](http://www.oxfordshirecommunityrail.org/)

# Station Adoption

Station adoption is when a group of volunteers, or an existing community group or organisation, 'adopts' a station, getting local people involved in the station and railway through volunteering.

GWR currently works with 312 volunteers across 92 stations on our network.

Station adoption groups make a valuable contribution, helping communities get the most from their stations, turning stations and their surroundings into welcoming gateways and hubs while also having health and wellbeing benefits.

## **Station adoption activities vary, but they often include:**

- Community gardening, food growing and biodiversity projects on station land.
- Installing heritage boards or community artwork to help people learn about and take pride in their area.
- Basic upkeep and litter-picking to create a welcoming and safe environment.

- Working with the rail industry towards improvements, such as better shelters, signage, or pedestrian and cyclist access.
- Running events, workshops, or other activities to promote sustainable travel, bring people together celebrating the local community.

GWR has a station adoption fund, which registered station adoption groups can apply for. This fund is instrumental in fostering community engagement and enhancing local railway stations and their surroundings.

If you would like to join an existing station friends group, or you would like more information about setting up a group at your local station, please contact us on **Community.Rail@GWR.com**







Great  
Western  
Railway



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE | Gold