



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

**AC::RP**  
[communityrail.org.uk](http://communityrail.org.uk)

**Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP)**  
*Supporting the community rail movement to flourish*

# From the chair and chief executive

**I was honoured to take over as chair of the ACoRP board following Peter Roberts' retirement at the last AGM.**

Peter became chair back in 2003 and steered us through many challenges and opportunities over fifteen years. ACoRP, and indeed community rail, would not be where they are today without his leadership. He retires with both in robust good health and our grateful thanks.

I have run the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership since 1998 and became involved with ACoRP from the start. What I have always loved about community rail is the sheer enthusiasm, imagination, inventiveness and quiet determination to make a difference that people in community rail partnerships, station friends' groups and others bring to making the most of their local railway or station to the benefit of all in any which way they can. There are lots of examples in this report and many more on ACoRP's website. I salute all of them, past and present.

A major reason why ACoRP was set up and exists, indeed thrives, today is to share experiences, learn from each other and, yes, 'borrow' good ideas for use in our own areas. The growing training and development programme is a key element of this, as are our awards which last year, in Glasgow, saw 180 entries and a record attendance.

My huge thanks go to Jools and the team, to our funders and supporters, and to all of you who work in community rail – paid or unpaid – across England, Scotland and Wales. All power to your elbows!



**Richard Burningham**  
Chair



**This has been another exciting and busy year, with our membership growing rapidly, members undertaking increasingly impressive and impactful work, and a new government strategy underlining the important, expanded role of community rail.**

The 180 responses to the Department for Transport's (DfT) community rail consultation demonstrated the huge amount of interest and passion surrounding the movement, and scope for ongoing development. ACoRP fed in heavily and supported our members to do the same. We were thrilled with the result: a mark of respect and understanding for the swathe of ways that community rail delivers social, economic and environmental value, and how it can be nurtured to do more.

The strategy is already having an effect. We have been working with the DfT, other government, industry and third sector partners, and of course our members, to start bringing it to life. The strategy's pillars have been providing inspiration and structure for our events, resources and support:

**\* providing a voice for communities \* sustainable and healthy travel  
\* social inclusion and diversity \* social and economic development**

These themes are helping us to champion community rail too, forge partnerships, and seize opportunities, by showing the power of community rail to make a difference. As we move into 2019-20, this is a major focus for us: helping our members consider, plan, evidence and celebrate the value they deliver for and with communities, and making good use of that information to generate increased support and collaboration, and further empower local people.

This, and everything we do, is all about achieving our vision, of a flourishing community rail movement, making the maximum possible contribution to sustainable development, inclusion and wellbeing.



**Jools Townsend**  
Chief executive





# ACoRP in numbers

**15** staff members, up from **13** 

**61** community rail partnership members, up from **58** 

**164** station group members, up from **100**

**14** events and training courses, with **345** attendees 

**180** entries to our awards, with **16** winners and **465** guests

**2,692** friends/followers/subscribers



**£781,973** annual turnover

**£421,214** distributed in grants



## Key achievements in pictures:



A clearer focus on youth engagement in community rail



Feeding into the Williams Rail Review



Launch of the Social Enterprise Toolkit



Support for our growing membership



An expanded training and development offer

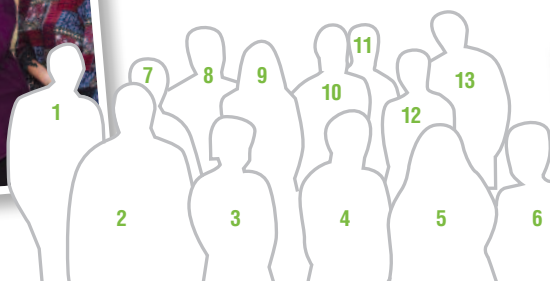


Launch of the new Community Rail Development Strategy

## Our team:



- 1 Anders Hanson, senior commercial manager
- 2 Paul Webster, operations manager
- 3 Jools Townsend, chief executive
- 4 Martin Yallop, community stations manager
- 5 Alice Mannion, tourism and heritage officer
- 6 Dawn Bigland, admin manager
- 7 Alex Peel, training and development coordinator
- 8 Ian Davis, operations officer
- 9 Naomi Lilley, training and development coordinator
- 10 Nik Schofield, communications and marketing manager
- 11 Patrick Southern, senior admin officer
- 12 Hazel Bonner, events and fundraising manager
- 13 Brian Barnsley, senior operations manager
- 14 Daniel Wright, community rail support officer
- 15 Rob Lowson, writer and researcher



# Supporting our members to flourish



*The 'Go Learn' programme delivered by Sussex Community Rail Partnership*

## Training and development takes off

Having designed our initial programme, our training and development coordinators Alex and Naomi continued to roll it out, with a growing number of opportunities offered and range of topics covered. They continued to liaise with community rail partnerships and groups to tailor courses to local and national contexts, and drew on ACoRP's members' survey, alongside visits and discussions, to identify common training needs.

This led to a range of workshops delivered at ACoRP and partner events, as well as standalone day-long sessions, an e-learning course, and bespoke facilitated sessions, covering:

- volunteering and social inclusion;
- hosting and managing work experience placements;
- introduction to outcomes and impact (linked to the new accreditation scheme);
- introduction to fundraising methods;
- considering charitable status (for Scottish CRPs);
- induction for new community rail partnership officers.

The team also continued to ensure that the main insights and recommendations of our 2017-18 report on '**Community Rail and Social Inclusion**' were promoted and reinforced on an ongoing basis across our training and development activities and ACoRP's wider work.

## Accreditation scheme developed

After advising government on its new national **Community Rail Development Strategy** ACoRP fed in to the DfT and Welsh Government's accreditation scheme for community rail partnerships, which would replace line 'designation'. We aimed to ensure this was a robust but also constructive process to accredit partnerships that demonstrate they are operating to a high standard, and engaging their communities in line with objectives supported by government.

While accreditation is a government scheme, awarded at their discretion, ACoRP is a key partner, supporting community rail partnerships through the process and making recommendations to government. This includes partnerships receiving direct advice from our operations team on what's needed, how to meet the standards, and having a review and planning meeting with them and their partners to ensure they have clear, agreed objectives and plans in place.

In 2018-19, we worked with the DfT, Welsh Government and three community rail partnerships (Essex and South Suffolk, Sussex, and the Cambrian Line) to trial the scheme and ensure it was ready to roll-out at the start of 2019-20, with a timetable put in place for accreditation meetings.

The first planning meetings took place just before the end of March, with the first accreditations expected to be awarded early in 2019-20. We have received positive initial feedback on the improvements the process has helped partnerships make to their planning and procedures.



## Supporting growth in community rail

With government and industry support, our operations team saw a significant growth in the number of enquiries to establish new community rail partnerships. By the end of 2018-19, two new partnerships had been created and joined ACoRP: The Heart of England Community Rail Partnership and 6VT Youth Community Rail Partnership. However, our operations team worked with ten embryonic partnerships over the year, with several of these getting close to launching in early 2019-20, taking the total number of community rail partnerships towards 70.

New rail franchises are bringing increased enthusiasm and commitments to helping community rail to spread. For example, we have been working closely with our partners West Midlands Trains and South Western Railway to nurture new and expanded community rail activities there, ensuring that new groups are well-rooted in and driven by their localities. In the West Midlands, our operations manager Paul is making great headway with two new partnerships, while on the South Western patch, Dan, our new community rail support officer, has helped the number of station adoption groups to reach double figures this year. We have also been liaising closely with Transport for Wales Rail Services on their ambitions to double the number of community rail partnerships across their network, with our enhanced work in Wales and Borders getting under way in 2019-20.

## A clear offer for our members

Following work in 2017-18 to clarify our support offer for community rail partnerships and station friends groups, we continued to see our membership numbers rise this year, alongside improved member satisfaction (see below). Especially striking has been the growth in our station friends groups, with more than 60 joining ACoRP in 2018-19, an increase of 64%. Moving into 2019-20, as well as continuing to promote our membership via partners and communications, we are refining our offer to 'community stations' projects, focusing on their particular needs around issues such as station buildings and social enterprise.

Read more at [communityrail.org.uk/join-us/](https://communityrail.org.uk/join-us/).

### Members' survey results

In the 2018 members' survey, 79% of respondents said they felt they received value for money for their ACoRP membership, up from 77% in 2017. The most commonly appreciated areas of support included access to funding, the availability, expertise and helpfulness of ACoRP team members, the provision of training and events, information via communication materials, the chance to share ideas, good practice and networking opportunities with other community rail groups, and the feeling of belonging to a larger community rail 'family'.



### Case study – Heart of England Community Rail Partnership

The Heart of England Community Rail Partnership was formed through the vision of Fraser Pithie from the Shakespeare Line Promotion Group. During 2018-19, working with the West Midlands Trains franchise, ACoRP played a key role in work that resulted in a steering group being set up. Our operations manager Paul helped the group to define its terms of reference, confirm hosting arrangements with Warwickshire County Council, plan an initial budget, and set out initial broad aims and activities. Plans are now in place for a stakeholder launch event and recruitment of a community rail officer in summer 2019.



### Case study – Friends of Angmering Station

The Friends of Angmering Station group have been working on gardening-based projects on spare land at the West Sussex station. As well as the efforts of their volunteers, they engaged local schools and youth organisations to provide artwork. ACoRP supported the project through providing a Small Grants Fund award, enabling them to expand into new areas and create a large wildflower garden. Our officer Dan also provided advice to help the group develop their activities, including working with train operator Southern and Sussex Community Rail Partnership to find a way to provide a water supply.

# Celebrating success, sharing good practice



## Awards and events

2018 saw the biggest ever Community Rail Awards, hosted in Glasgow – the first time the event had ever been held in Scotland – by ScotRail. Coordinated by our events manager Hazel, the event attracted a record 465 guests, including community rail officers and volunteers, plus industry and government colleagues. A range of community rail work was showcased and celebrated from an impressive 180 entries. **Read about the winners at [communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ACoRP-CRA18-Winners-Brochure.pdf](https://communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ACoRP-CRA18-Winners-Brochure.pdf)**

We also held 14 events and training courses in 2018-19, with 345 attendees. This again included organising the DfT's annual Community Rail Conference, bringing 110 delegates to Sheffield. It was based around the four pillars of the new **Community Rail Development Strategy**, with workshops on topics such as diversity and inclusion, community stations development, urban station adoption and walking and cycling schemes.

In 2019-20, we will continue to run a varied programme to complement the needs and aspirations of our members, drawing on our increasing pool of third sector partners to bring in expertise and advice relevant to community rail.



## Resources and case studies

Aside from our major research report on the value of community rail (see page 10), we also produced, via our new writer and researcher Rob, The Socially Enterprising Railway, a toolkit for groups looking to develop social enterprise in a railway environment. Produced in conjunction with CrossCountry and the SFEDI Group, it offers guidance in business planning, engaging partners, marketing and finance, plus examples of successful projects and recommendations on getting ideas off the ground. **See [communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ACoRP-Social-Enterprising-Railway-Toolkit-1218.pdf](https://communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ACoRP-Social-Enterprising-Railway-Toolkit-1218.pdf)**

We also produced numerous online case studies and two new easy-to-follow guidance sheets on identifying your tourism offer and the use of social media. **See [communityrail.org.uk/resources-ideas/reports-resources-tools/](https://communityrail.org.uk/resources-ideas/reports-resources-tools/)**



## Case study – The Strawberry Line Café

The Strawberry Line Café Project Interest Company was set up to run a community café on Yatton Station in North Somerset. They recognised, via consultation with residents and rail users, the need for a café in the area, and identified a disused building at the station as an ideal base. The group was established as a not-for-profit social enterprise, set up to employ and train adults with learning disabilities and enable them to gain the skills to work in catering and hospitality. The café also acts as a meeting place for local community and voluntary groups, hosting events such as coffee mornings and walking, craft or book groups. Our writer and researcher Rob liaised with their directors to write the socially enterprising railway toolkit and share this as an example of good practice, including their business plan in the resource, before later speaking together at the Great Western Railway community rail conference.

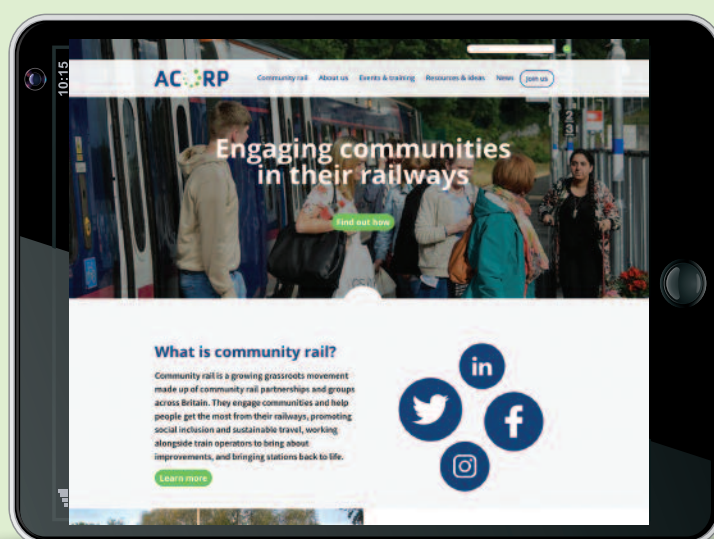


## Community rail online

Our communications and marketing manager Nik continued to develop our website, [communityrail.org.uk](https://communityrail.org.uk), regularly adding content to ensure it's an engaging and accessible hub for our members and those seeking to find out more about community rail. We also increased our presence on social media, with a 10% increase in users/followers across the year.

In March, our monthly e-bulletin issued to ACoRP members and supporters was rebranded from 'Train Online' to 'Community Rail News', offering a fresh and visually appealing format capturing the latest developments across the movement.

We also continued to advise members on communicating their news locally. This included a digital marketing project funded by Northern, in which Nik surveyed and visited community rail partnerships across the region, identifying good practice, support needs and skill gaps.



We then facilitated training for a number of community rail staff and volunteers on web design, social media, and web traffic analytics, helping them to improve their online presence.





## Community Rail in the City

This annual event, coordinated by our tourism and heritage officer Alice, continues to go from strength to strength and provides a valued opportunity for community rail groups to showcase their lines and attractions at busy city stations.

The 2018 event, on 16th May, involved 24 community rail partnerships running activities at 11 stations, speaking to an estimated 50,000 people. Highlights included:

- an indoor Welsh beach scene at Birmingham New Street organised by community rail partnerships from Wales and the Borders;
- sea shanties and a celebration of Poldark at London Paddington with Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership;
- East Suffolk Lines Community Rail Partnership's lion at London Liverpool Street, promoting rail travel to the 'Africa Alive' safari park.

The event continues to highlight the opportunities accessible via Britain's expanding community rail network, as well as promoting sustainable tourism by rail.





## Scenic Rail Britain

We continued to promote our Scenic Rail Britain campaign and website, [www.scenicrailbritain.com](http://www.scenicrailbritain.com), alongside project partners Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership. New content has been regularly added to the site and social media channels to promote Britain's most picturesque and interesting rail lines – more than 70 are now featured – to international tourists and domestic day-trippers.

One of the highlights of 2018-19 was a new online advertising campaign centred around a 'Five most scenic rail journeys in Scotland' blog, complete with inspiring photography. Promotion was focused on Facebook users who already had an interest in visiting Britain and aimed to highlight other scenic lines using the hook of Scotland's epic landscapes.

Altogether in 2018-19, the website had 41,022 users and 129,017 page views, with numbers continuing to climb as we develop other partnerships and links, while also encouraging community rail partnerships to further develop their line pages.

## Case study – 100 years of Aviation along the Poacher Line

In 2018, the Poacher Line Community Rail Partnership used the centenary year of the Royal Air Force to launch its own marketing campaign to encourage people to visit the county's aviation centres by rail. They produced materials and interactive activities to engage the public, including an eye-catching exhibition stand. They approached local museums and businesses, resulting in a discount voucher for guests if they arrived by train. There were several successful events, including a 1940s afternoon, RAF family day and 'music train', and an impressive stand at Birmingham New Street as part of ACoRP's Community Rail in the City. They brought a replica Red Arrow plane that passengers could sit in and have their photo taken, resulting in huge social media interest and a TV appearance on Good Morning Britain.





# Social value, social inclusion and diversity

## The value of community rail

Our major research report this year was an exploration of how community rail delivers value to communities, individuals and society. Using data collected from ACoRP members and rail industry partners, we found that around 8,500 volunteers give more than 390,000 hours every year to deliver community rail activity. This is calculated to be worth up to £33.2m annually in terms of their labour contribution, plus the health, wellbeing and development benefits to the volunteers themselves.

The study also found that community rail lines – those with community rail partnerships – performed well in terms of passenger numbers, with a sample group of 36 lines showing a 42% increase in ridership between 2008-9 and 2017-18, higher than the total overall increase in passenger journeys of 35%.

The report also included qualitative analysis of wide-ranging examples of community rail empowering local people and connecting them with opportunities that benefit health, wellbeing and prosperity, using sustainable means.

Read the report at [communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Acorp-Value-of-Community-Rail-12019-V3.pdf](https://communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Acorp-Value-of-Community-Rail-12019-V3.pdf)







## Assessing social impact

A key focus in 2018-19, which will remain so in 2019-20, was helping community rail groups to better assess, evidence and communicate the impact of their activities within communities.

Having played a significant role advising RSSB on developing a Common Social Impact Framework for the railway industry, we considered how we could draw on this to support our members. In our **Value of Community Rail Report**, we made use of this, as well as the **Community Rail Development Strategy** and wider sources, to set out our own initial exploratory framework for identifying and assessing social value specifically in community rail. We will be increasingly directing community rail partnerships and groups to this, to assist with planning and evaluation. We are also now exploring the potential to create an impact assessment tool with an easy-to-use online interface, that will enable members to record data, gather feedback, and compile reports.

Meanwhile, we will continue to advise decision-makers and partners on how social value can be put more at the forefront of our railways, including sitting on RSSB's industry-wide Social Value Working Group.



The study's participants highlighted how community rail is facilitating more inclusive, cohesive and connected communities, as well as engaging disadvantaged groups in their railways, exerting a positive influence on wider regeneration and community development, and offering a range of life-changing opportunities.



### Each Year

8,500  
volunteers

giving

390,000  
hours

an annual  
value of

£5.6m

a social value to volunteers of

£27.6m

Passenger numbers  
on community rail lines  
rose by 42% between  
2008/9 and 2017/18,  
higher than the overall  
increase of 35%





## Reaching out to young people

In 2017-18, we started to think about how we could engage more young people in the community rail movement. Through our 2018 members' survey, respondents told us they were enthusiastic about working with young people, with more than 80% keen to receive further support in this area.

To develop this, we devised a strategic framework for developing engagement of young people in community rail, from 2019 to 2022. This sets out how we will support our members to develop confidence, skills, abilities and activities to effectively engage young people, and gives examples of some tried and tested approaches used successfully by members. Key to this framework is working in partnership with youth organisations, and listening to and respecting young people themselves.

We were pleased, therefore, to make good headway in forging new partnerships with Groundwork and Prince's Trust, to share their expertise and broker links at a local level. This included Groundwork running some well-received interactive workshops at our Autumn members' seminars, and Prince's Trust looking forward to running sessions in early 2019-20.

### Case study – On the Move events

Coordinated by the Severnside Community Rail Partnership along the Severn Beach Line in Bristol, 'On the Move' started by chance, with a request that they host a 'Fun Palace' workshop on a train, using culture to promote community engagement. The project has since developed to incorporate different community groups using space on trains to promote their cause. Events have raised awareness about issues ranging from mental health to suffrage, with activities including a 'Community Tea' and 'Singing for the Brain' during Dementia Action Week. Conversation while on the move is central to the events, and 'Chatty Trains', in various guises, have become a regular feature, with partnership staff and volunteers undergoing mental health first-aid training to develop their listening and signposting skills.



*The Stand Clear of the Closet Doors project*





*An event in the 'Kille Browner' bookshop at Kilmamock Station*

## Proud to champion inclusion

More generally, social inclusion and diversity continues to be a theme running through our work, and we were delighted that the DfT made this area one of the four pillars of its Community Rail Development Strategy. Our training and development programme has provided a range of practical advice and skills development to help members engage wider audiences and operate in a sustainable way. We also work hard year-round to share the hard work and inspiring examples of our members promoting social inclusion and diversity.

### Case study – Women Who Wander

Community Rail Lancashire felt that transport and rail was male-dominated, and wanted to change that by engaging, inspiring, and influencing the next generation of strong young women. Women Who Wander raised awareness of the gender imbalance, and gave women and girls the chance to engage with rail and enhance their writing and life skills. They took 150 students of different ages and backgrounds, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, on rail journeys, during which they discussed their views of rail and debated gender imbalance. Participants were then led through a writing session to produce a piece in their chosen style: short stories, poems, or non-fiction. A booklet of work was produced, with entries read out at an event at Manchester Victoria Station on International Women's Day. ACoRP has since been promoting the project as an example of good practice.





# Leading on sustainability



*Mytholmroyd Station Partnership at work*

## Connecting sustainable travel modes

Community rail is inherently all about sustainability; the movement's core field of work is encouraging people to use rail as an alternative to driving. Achieving this means much lower carbon emissions per mile travelled, as well as helping to reduce the noise, congestion and danger that blights so many of our communities.

With the UK Parliament, and a growing number of local authorities, having declared that we face a climate emergency, this need is more pressing than ever. There is also increasing recognition that electric cars are not a panacea: we need to help more people to choose public transport, combined with walking and cycling, to avoid catastrophic global heating, and in doing this we can deliver a raft of benefits for the health and wellbeing of individuals, communities and places, now and in the future.

Community rail is already helping to make this change, by promoting rail travel locally, and linking rail up with other sustainable modes. However, ACoRP is clear that there is scope for community rail to play a greater role, and we are committed to continuing to step up our efforts to support this.

## Leading the way in our communities

In 2018-19 we kicked off a series of discussions exploring how we can help our members to lead on sustainability locally and spearhead positive change. A key issue that many of our members are involved in is better connecting and integrating rail with other sustainable and healthy modes of travel: walking, cycling, bus, community bus and tram. We have also been reaching out to partners in the active travel and wider public transport arena to share ideas and good practice, and will continue to build on this.

In 2019-20 we plan to share a range of ideas and advice on sustainability, empowering members to work with partners locally to achieve impactful change. Key to this will be developing a station travel planning toolkit for communities, working with West Midlands Trains to create and pilot this. We will also be considering how we can more closely support members to overcome barriers to integrated, sustainable journeys, where walking, cycling and other public transport modes connect seamlessly with rail.

We will be leading by example too, and encouraging members to do the same, such as always using reusable cups and bottles.



## Supporting sustainability in rail

As well as empowering our members to champion sustainability locally, we are drawing on members' experiences to support progress towards a more sustainable rail network. Rail is already a sustainable transport choice, but a range of work is underway to move towards zero carbon operations and help passengers to be greener.

In 2018-19, ACoRP fed in views on the importance of sustainability, and opportunities to develop it, to the Williams Rail Review, and at many meetings and events. We also agreed to advise an RSSB project to develop a sustainable stations standard. We look forward to continuing to develop this crucial strand of work.

### Case study – Active Access for Growth

Sussex Community Rail Partnership is part of a sustainable travel change programme called 'Active Access for Growth', funded by the Department for Transport. It aims to grow and integrate cycling and walking initiatives across the region to promote longer-term behaviour change towards active and sustainable modes of travel. It has an emphasis on boosting the local economy and improving health by widening access to employment, education and training and encouraging healthy lifestyles and community development. The project also involves travel planning work with young people experiencing barriers to travelling independently, including those with special educational needs. Alongside the community rail partnership, the scheme involves East Sussex County Council, Sustrans, Living Streets, South Downs National Park and Pedal Power.

### Case study – Solar-powered Illuminated Poster Cases for Timetables

The Avocet Line Rail User Group found that at night, light was not falling on timetables, leaving passengers in the dark at some stations. The group then discovered that innovative and sustainable solar-powered illuminated poster cases were manufactured close-by, by local company onthecase.

With support from Great Western Railway, Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership and ACoRP, poster cases were installed at three stations, Lymstone Village, Exton and St James' Park. The cases, which are 100% generated by solar power with zero energy costs, had never been used on railway stations before, and passengers fed back that they improved the ambience of the stations and made them easier and more attractive to use at night.





# Engaging partners and government

## A new national strategy

ACoRP invested much time and energy working with and advising the Department for Transport on its new Community Rail Development Strategy, and promoting its launch in November 2018 by the then rail minister Andrew Jones MP. The result is a strategy that draws strongly on the experiences and insights that community rail offers, and underlines its importance to social inclusion, mobility, sustainability, and community development. We believe it provides a clear framework for partnership working between communities, the rail industry, government and third and public sector partners. We are confident it is already inspiring those working in and partnering with community rail to further strengthen their work. **Read the strategy at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-rail-development-strategy](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-rail-development-strategy).**

## Advising on the future of rail

As well as advising government on the development of community rail, we have been feeding into a major national policy review on the future of our railways generally. We submitted a comprehensive written response to the Williams Rail Review, setting out how putting communities at the forefront can help rail to make a greater contribution in social, economic and environmental terms.

We also encouraged and supported our members to contribute their views and examples, and offered our specialist expertise on community engagement opportunities.

## Working with governments

Year-round, we work closely with our biggest funder, the DfT, coordinating with the stations and community rail team, and its National Community Rail Steering Group, to deliver on its new Community Rail Development Strategy. We have also been working with other DfT teams to take forward opportunities for community rail to align with walking and cycling activity, and the cross-departmental drive to tackle isolation and loneliness.

We have been liaising regularly with our funders at the Welsh Government, and are now looking forward to stepping up our activity in Wales and Borders under the new franchise, supporting ambitions for the rapid growth of community rail there. In 2018-19 we also engaged with and advised Transport Scotland, Transport for Greater Manchester and West Midlands Railway Executive on community rail and community stations development, and are conscious of the increasing opportunities for community rail to collaborate with devolved authorities.







*The 2019 Community Rail Conference in Sheffield*

## Third sector partnerships

We made major headway developing third sector partnerships, which are already bearing fruit in helping community rail to develop and collaborate. We continue to liaise with partners in the transport arena to share ideas, information and good practice, including Campaign for Better Transport, Community Transport Association, Sustrans and Transport Focus. We have also been engaging a range of partners on other issues pertinent to community rail, and sharing their expertise among our members. That includes setting up partnerships with Prince's Trust and Groundwork to facilitate greater engagement of young people in community rail, and developing relationships with Locality and Plunkett Foundation to support rail-related community businesses.

## Managing grants

We continue to work on behalf of a number of government and industry partners to manage and promote grant schemes, ensuring a robust approach to awarding funding, which is increasingly outcomes-orientated. These schemes included in 2018-19:

- Community rail development fund (England and Wales), on behalf of the Department for Transport, plus our Small Grants Fund
- South Western Railway Small Grants Fund
- Transport for Greater Manchester Small Grants Fund

In total, ACoRP awarded £421,214 to community rail projects and developments in 2018-19.



## Our supporters

As a not-for-profit organisation working towards charitable objectives, ACoRP is dependent on sponsors, supporters and corporate partners. We are hugely grateful to our growing list of main partners (see below), and all who contributed sponsorship and in-kind help. As well as maintaining funding from national and devolved governments, we welcomed on board new corporate partners, who we will work with proactively to develop opportunities for community rail.

Find out about partnership opportunities at [communityrail.org.uk/join-us/19partners-and-supporters](https://communityrail.org.uk/join-us/19partners-and-supporters) or email [hazel@acorp.uk.com](mailto:hazel@acorp.uk.com).

### Our government and not-for-profit funders:



**Rail Delivery Group**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



### Our corporate partners:



Operated by West Midlands Trains



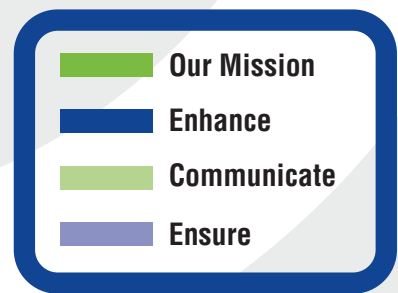
# Our vision

**Our vision is of...**  
**a flourishing community rail movement\*,**  
**connecting communities and their railways,**  
**and enhancing the wellbeing, sustainability**  
**and development of communities**  
**across Britain**

\*Community-based partnerships, groups, organisations, social enterprises and volunteers seeking to benefit their local community and railway, through connecting people with, and engaging them in, the railway, and vice versa

**AC:RP**

**Our mission is to empower, support and champion the community rail movement, helping community rail partnerships and groups to:**



**Enhance the railways' contribution to local sustainable development and community wellbeing, including by maximising access to and use of rail**

**Ensure the community has a voice and plays a part in the development of our railways, so it meets community needs and aspirations and delivers maximum social benefit**

**Communicate the development and importance of our railways to local communities, enhancing understanding and pride, and promoting rail as a part of sustainable, healthy travel**



This ACoRP Annual Report 2018-19 is a draft, subject to agreement by our members at our November 2019 AGM.

Find out more about community rail and our work supporting community rail partnerships and groups at

**[communityrail.org.uk](https://communityrail.org.uk)**

Find out more about becoming a member or partner at

**[communityrail.org.uk/join-us](https://communityrail.org.uk/join-us)**

or call

**01484 548926**

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