



**Community Rail Conference**  
**Connecting Communities with the Railways**  
8 & 9 / 15 & 16 March 2021  
**DRAFT Programme**

**Part 1: Monday 8 March, 10:00 – 13:30**

(optional networking session over lunch)

**10:00 - 10:15**      **Opening the conference, welcome and introduction, setting the scene**  
Jools Townsend, Chief Executive, Community Rail Network

**THEME 1:**      **Engaging and galvanising relationships with local communities, including volunteers and local partners**

**External Case Study**

**10:15 - 10:30**      **'Stronger Healthier, More Active Communities'** with Matt Conway, The English Football League Trust

**10:30 – 10:40 Q&A with Matt**

**Community Rail Case Studies session**

**10:40 – 10:55**      **Backtrack/CR Education Network** with Karen Bennett, Felicity Machniki, Fiona Forsythe and Rowena Chantler

**10:55 – 11:10**      **Setting up a CRP and engaging with the community during challenging times,** with Dawn Lyle, South West Wales Connected,

**11:10 - 11:20**      **Discussion**

**11:20 – 11:30 Break – 10 mins**

**11:30 – 12:00 - Breakout groups** - *Please check the delegate list to see if you have been allocated a number for the breakout session and join the appropriate room. If you do not have a number allocated, please feel free to join one of the 'general networking' rooms to catch up with other community rail and industry colleagues.*

**12:00 – 12:05**      **Summary/closing remarks** - Jools Townsend (5 mins)

**12:05 - 12:30**      **Lunch break** - *The conference Zoom meeting will stay open for informal networking over lunch, in the breakout rooms.*

**12:30 – 13:30**      **Celebrating 'Women in Community Rail' for International Women's Day**  
Join this award winning, diversity focused group to celebrate International Women's Day (Optional session)

## **Community Rail Conference** **Connecting Communities with the Railways**

### **Part 2: Tuesday 9 March, 10:00 – 13:30**

(optional networking session over lunch)

**10:00 - 10:15**      **Welcome and introduction, setting the scene**  
**Simon Huish**, Head of Stations & Community Rail, Department for Transport

**THEME 2:**      **Restarting/prioritising projects and activities to support social and economic recovery**

#### **External case study**

**10:15 - 10:30**      **Totally Locally – ‘Supporting local businesses to aid social and economic recovery** with Chris Sands, The Good Company & Totally Locally

**10:30 – 10:40**      **Q&A**

#### **Community rail case studies session**

**10:40 – 10:55**      **‘Better Side of the Tracks’ - social regeneration project**, with Warren Birch  
Community Rail Cumbria

**10:55 – 11:10**      **‘Suit Yourself’ - economic regeneration project**, with Bobby Lock, Isle of Wight CRP

**11:10 - 11:20**      **Discussion**

**11:20 – 11:30**      ***Break – 10 mins***

**11:30 – 12:00**      ***Breakout groups - Please check the delegate list to see if you have been allocated a number for the breakout session and join the appropriate room. If you do not have a number allocated, please feel free to join one of the ‘general networking’ rooms to catch up with other community rail and industry colleagues.***

**12:05 - 12:30:**      **Lunch break** - *The conference Zoom meeting will stay open for informal networking over lunch, in the breakout rooms.*

**12:30 – 13:00**      **Network Rail’s Social Performance Strategy linking to Community Rail**, with Liz Holford, Sustainability Strategy Manager, Network Rail

**13:00 – 13:05**      **Summary/closing remarks** - Simon Huish

# Community Rail Conference

## Connecting Communities with the Railways

### Part 3 – Monday 15 March - 10:00 – 12:05

(optional networking session 12:05 – 12:35)

**10:00 - 10:15**      **Welcome and introduction, setting the scene**  
Richard Burningham, Chair, Community Rail Network

**THEME 3:**      **Bringing communities together, working with vulnerable /  
marginalised groups and promoting social inclusion**

#### External case study

**10:15 - 10:30**      **Good Things Foundation** with Isobel Thomas & Francesca Coleman

**10:30 – 10:40**      **Q&A**

#### Community rail case studies session

**10:40 – 10:55**      **'Lyric & Line' project**, with Malcolm Chainey Tyne Valley CRP,

**10:55 – 11:10**      **'From Seats to Sacks' project** with Karen Bennett, Community Rail Lancashire

**11:10 - 11:20**      **Discussion**

**11:20 – 11:30**      **Break – 10 mins**

**11:30 – 12:00 -**      **Breakout groups** - *Please check the delegate list to see if you have been allocated a number for the breakout session and join the appropriate room. If you do not have a number allocated, please feel free to join one of the 'general networking' rooms to catch up with other community rail and industry colleagues.*

**12:00 – 12:05**      **Summary/closing remarks** - Richard Burningham

**12:05 – 12:35**      **Informal Networking** - *The conference Zoom meeting will stay open for 30 minutes of informal networking in the breakout rooms.*

# Community Rail Conference

## Connecting Communities with the Railways

### Part 4 – Tuesday 16 March - 10:00 – 14:05

(optional networking session over lunch)

**10:00 - 10:15**      **Host for session 4 – welcome and introduction, setting the scene**  
**Simon Huish**, Head of Stations & Community Rail, Department for Transport

**THEME 4:**      **Promoting Rail as Safe, accessible and sustainable travel**

#### External case study

**10:15 - 10:30**      **Promoting Rail as Safe, accessible and sustainable travel** with David Mapp,  
Chair of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee – Rail Working Group

**10:30 – 10:40**      **Q&A with David**

#### Community rail case studies session

**10:40 – 10:55**      **'Round robin' multi-modal travel ticket** with Nick Farthing, Three Rivers  
CRP

**10:55 – 11:10**      **'Baby, I want you Back!' - winning passengers back as part of longer-term  
recovery** with Mike Parker-Bray, Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership

**11:10 - 11:20**      **Discussion**

**11:20 – 11:30**      ***Break – 10 mins***

**11:30 – 12:00**      ***Breakout groups - Please check the delegate list to see if you have been allocated a  
number for the breakout session and join the appropriate room. If you do not have a  
number allocated, please feel free to join one of the 'general networking' rooms to  
catch up with other community rail and industry colleagues.***

**12:00 - 12:15**      **Helping community rail to flourish - looking to the future**  
Jools Townsend, Chief Executive, Community Rail Network

**12:15 – 12:20**      **Q&A with Jools**

**12:20 – 13:10**      **Lunch break** - *The conference Zoom meeting will stay open for informal networking  
over lunch, in the breakout rooms.*

**13:10 – 14:00**      **Department for Transport, update on the Rail Reform**, with Joshua Monahan,  
Devolutions and Regions Lead, Dept for Transport

**14:00 – 14:05**      **Closing the conference - Summary/closing remarks** - Simon Huish