

**Developing
the role of
community rail**

Jools Townsend
Chief executive



Challenges // opportunities

- Rail transformation & a 'simpler better' railway
- Altered travel patterns
- Cost of living crisis
- Climate crisis

>> The need to come together, build hope & positive visions

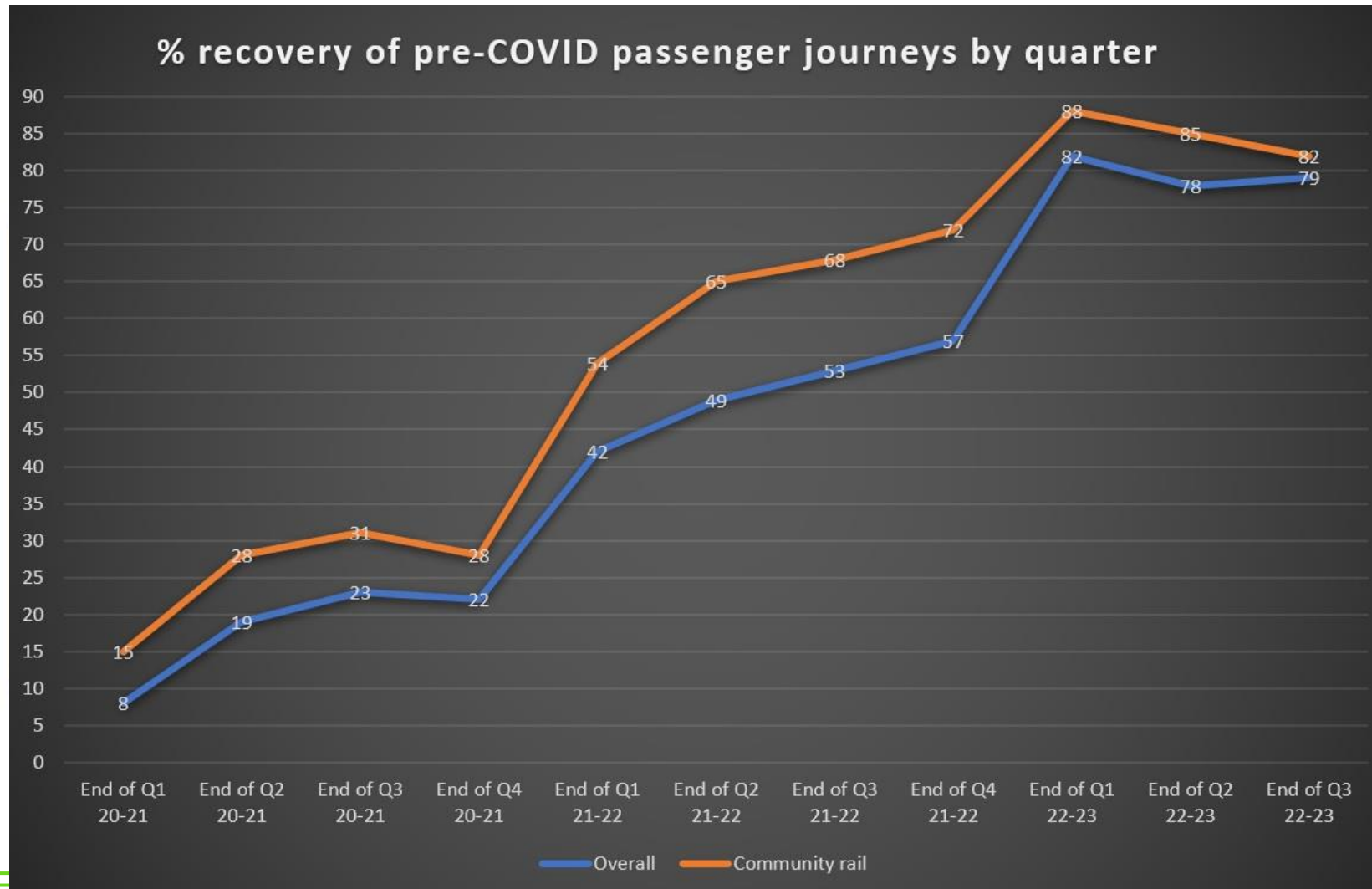


Three Rivers CRP's Swathling Station Freeshop



Highland Mainline CRP promoting their line

Community rail's evidenced impact ...on the numbers



Community Rail Network analysis using LENNON data

Community rail's evidenced impact ...on people's lives



“I didn’t use the trains before, I felt a bit nervous. But with this project, I’ve found out that there are people that can help you at stations, and there is nothing to be scared about.”

Keeley Smith, 17, student, Sheppey College (working with Kent CRP)

Evidence counts (especially now)

- To influence
- To grow & diversify income
- To build partnerships
- To promote ourselves
- To get our messages out
- To give communities a voice
- To play a stronger role

Gloucestershire
CRP's Getaway
project



Drawing on wider research & expertise

“

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”²

“

Sustainable development is about finding better ways of doing things, both for the future and the present.”⁴

”

Sustainable development – adapted from *Poverty-Environment Partnership 2012*.⁶



1. Further strengthening our support & development work

>> Proactive & reactive support for growing membership:

- Through (re)accreditation
- For new officers
- For boards & chairs
- For station friends & buildings
- Through change & challenges

New River Line CRP's 'Art @ The Station' project



2. Education & youth engagement

- Karen Bennett secondment
- Current review – exploring ways to develop & support this work
- Ongoing development of Education Network
- Resources, tools, advice, training
- Working with youth & education partners to get community rail out there

>> See our bulletins / email
karen@communityrail.org.uk



Platform Rail community education scheme (Sevenside, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and Transwilt Community Rail Partnerships)

3. Integrated sustainable transport

- Grant funding scheme (ISTF)
- Additional resourcing in our team in 23-24
- New members' forum
- Expertise and collaboration from Sustainable Transport Alliance partners
- Alignment with rail industry



Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership premiere at Barnstaple Station showcasing new promotional videos

4. Travel confidence & accessibility

- Sharing results and lessons from Tackling Loneliness with Transport project
- Working up a Motability grant bid
- Accessibility report coming soon
- Broader partnership working

Leeds-Morecambe
CRP working with
Northern Year in
Industry students
on an accessibility
initiative



5. Using campaigns & events to spread the word

- Community Rail Week (22-28 May) – tell us what you're planning!
- Leisure promotion support, Days Out campaign
- Tourism & Leisure Network
- Stepping up Scenic Rail Britain
- Community Rail Awards (spring '24)

>> alice@communityrail.org.uk



Wales on Rails campaign (Wales & Borders CRPs and Great Little Trains of Wales)

Sharing your unique insights



Kent CRP event with Ashford College students in Community Rail Week



St Germans & Area Public Transport Group consultation on travel needs



Abbey Line CRP, Bee Friendly Trust, Watford Mencap & London Northwestern wildlife-friendly planting & new signage



**Please keep talking
to us & sharing your
ideas & experiences**

communityrail.org.uk/meettheteam

