



Warren Birch
Community Rail Partnership Officer -
Cumbrian Coast Line



Flimby - The background

- Flimby is a small village in West Cumbria with a population of around 2000
- Identified in the top 10% most deprived areas in England
- High levels of anti-social behaviour
- Educational visits very sporadic



How could Community Rail change this?

- How could Community Rail bring about real, lasting change to children and their families living in areas of recognised social and economic deprivation in Cumbria?
- Opportunity
- Community Rail two-pronged strategy



Stop Smashing our Windows Project





Project Aims

- Demonstrate how Community Rail can improve the welfare of deprived areas
- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Respect the railway station and local village
- Increase community engagement
- Ensure children are involved and not excluded due to their backgrounds
- Provide educational opportunities outside of the school classroom
- Promote the educational value of Millom Discovery Centre



Demonstrate how Community Rail can improve the welfare of deprived areas

- Cumbria County Council introduced family learning sessions
- Barnardo's began counselling to deal with pupils anxieties
- Allerdale Community Learning and Development were able to provide a range of workshops
- Community Rail Cumbria working in partnership with Northern to support rail travel
- Community Rail Cumbria created a Strategic Alliance with Millom Discovery Centre



Respect the railway station and local village

- Safety in and around the station
- Community pride being restored
- Partnership working
- Positive press coverage
- Number of anti-social incidents drastically reduced, lessening police involvement in and around the village







Increase community engagement

- Curiosity stirring within the village
- Allotment owners
- Parish Council
- Parents engagement
- School being the hub of the community
- Reducing loneliness

Ensure children are involved and not excluded due to their backgrounds



- Opportunities
- Empower children to feel more confident in their abilities
- Reward and recognition





Provide educational opportunities outside of the school classroom

- The whole experience
- Trailblazer for other schools on the Cumbrian Coast Line
- Sharing experiences with others
- Encourage future rail travel



Promote the educational value of Millom Discovery Centre



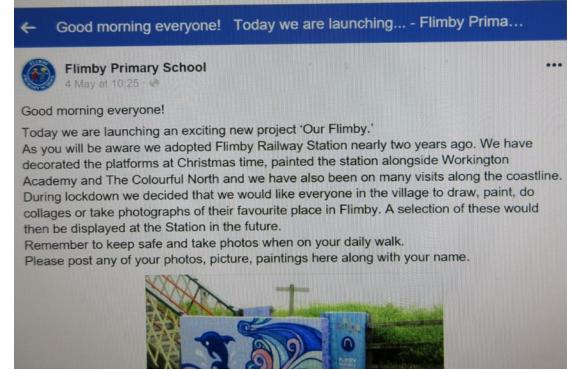
- Facilities
- The Rail Room
- Community Rail Hub
- Future developments
- Feedback





What's next?

- Review and develop information resource packs with Millom Discovery Centre
- More workshops
- Use of the school
- Artwork
- Supporting the elderly
- Shoe boxes for children abroad
- More school trips along the Cumbrian Coast Line
- 'Our Flimby' mural





"The beach is our favourite place to be. The smell, the air, the sounds. We do lots on the beach, from building to collecting. Our favourite things to do are collecting shells, drilling holes and making jewellery"



"Flimby has a few hidden gems but this is the one that I chose. I love the peace and tranquillity that you find at Flimby pond. The quiet atmosphere that you find there makes it seem a magical and secret place"



"During lockdown we had lots of walks on the shore, many at night time to catch our beautiful sunset, in the wonderful community of Flimby by the sea"





Thank you for listening, happy to take any questions.

Should you need any further information I can be contacted at –

warren.birch@cumbria.gov.uk