**Press release | For immediate release: 14 March 2024**

**From Community Rail Network |** [**news@communityrail.co.uk**](mailto:news@communityrail.co.uk)

**Community project connecting people with rail in [insert region name e.g Kent] recognised at national awards**

[insert region name as above]-based community [rail partnership/group], [insert name of partnership/group], has won a coveted national Community Rail Award for its innovative work engaging communities with their local railway [line/lines] and [station/stations].

[insert name of partnership/group] fought off strong competition to be named winner of the [insert award category name] award at the 20th national Community Rail Awards.

The event, organised by Community Rail Network and headline partnered by Lumo, was this year held in Newcastle, to honour the wider railway industries’ celebration of 200 years since the birth of modern railways.

This year’s Awards recognised a diverse array of projects across Britain and beyond, with 20 winners chosen from 227 inspiring entries, all demonstrating how the community rail movement builds positivity and awareness between local people and their railways.

[Insert project name and add more details about the project – you could lift some text from your awards submission].

More broadly, [insert name of partnership/group] delivers a range of community engagement and social inclusion initiatives, supports volunteering at stations, promotes green travel and tourism by rail, and works with railway and local authority partners [delete as necessary and adjust so this paragraph reflects the wider work you do outside of your winning project].

More than 500 guests including senior rail and transport leaders and community rail officers and volunteers were in attendance at the prestigious evening on 13 March. The Awards recognised projects supporting diversity, accessibility and inclusion, sustainable travel and tourism, youth and schools engagement, community-led station improvements, empowered communities and influencing positive change.

The Awards recognise the crucial, often unsung work of community rail partnerships, station friends and other community rail groups, which continue to grow in number and impact, under Community Rail Network’s umbrella. There are now 76 CRPs and an estimated 1,300 station groups spread across Britain (and now a few beyond too).

**[name of representative] from [name of partnership/group] said: “**[insert quote]**”**

**Bill Freeman, interim chief executive of Community Rail Network, said:** “Our Community Rail Awards give deserved recognition to community rail partnerships, groups and volunteers across Britain and now beyond. It’s a fantastic achievement to be able to celebrate two decades of recognising the outstanding work across community rail, especially during this special Railway 200 year. Our congratulations to [insert name of partnership/group/individual] and to all our winners, and thanks to everyone who supports and champions community rail, helping the movement to go from strength to strength.”

[Insert additional quotes from your local train operator or project partners.]

**Rail Minister Lord Peter Hendy said:**

[Where relevant you could also include the below quotes, if space allows. However it’s best practice not to have more than two or three quotes in a press release]

**Lumo, said:**

**Full details of all winners can be found** [**here**](http://www.communityrail.org.uk/cra25)**.**

**ENDS**

**For more details and follow-up interviews, please contact [insert name, telephone number and email address for media to get in touch for more info or for follow-up interviews].**

**Notes to editors:**

1. Community rail is a grassroots movement spanning Britain that is made up of community rail partnerships, which work along railway lines or across regions, and volunteer station ‘friends’ groups, to connect communities with their railways. There are over 75 community rail partnerships and 1,200 station friends volunteer groups across Britain [**www.communityrail.org.uk**](http://www.communityrail.org.uk)
2. [Insert basic information about your partnership/group here to give extra background information that editors may need]