*[Feel free to use this press release template as needed, you can copy it or lift relevant paragraphs out or just use the quotes. If you would like support on writing press releases or where to send them, get in touch with our* [*comms team here*](mailto:news@Communityrail.org.uk)*.]*

**Press release | For immediate release: [insert date, alternatively you can embargo your press release and give a clear date when it can be published]**

**From [name of CRP or group] | [insert contact email address]**

**[insert name of county/region] community [partnership/group] joins national campaign celebrating 200 years of Britain’s railways bring people together**

**E.g. Bristol community group joins national campaign celebrating 200 years of Britain’s railways bringing people together**

[Name of CRP/group] joins community rail partnerships, station friends’ volunteers and other community groups across Britain to showcase how the railway can bring people together, as the national Community Rail Week launches, during the milestone Railway 200 anniversary year.

[Name of CRP/group] will be [add details of the CRP/group activity. e.g. ‘The group will be taking to social media during the week to raise awareness of the difference people can make by traveling sustainably by rail.’ Or include details of a physical event/activity you are planning as part of Community Rail Week. You can also use this space to showcase previous projects that you’ve delivered].

The [event/promotion delete as necessary] is part of a programme of community-led activities and events taking place across Britain during Community Rail Week.

Community Rail Week, organised by Community Rail Network and sponsored by Rail Delivery Group, returns for its fifth year 19 - 25 May and will showcase innovative projects and inspiring initiatives from across the community rail movement.

As the nation celebrates 200 years since the world’s first passenger train departed along the Stockton and Darlington Railway, Community Rail Week is shining a spotlight on the inspiring work that goes on in community rail, bringing people together and creating more inclusive communities and mobility, as well as the wider socio-economic benefit that the railways deliver.

Community rail is a grassroots national movement supported by hundreds of community partnerships, groups and volunteers to improve travel confidence, increase access to opportunities, tackle social isolation, give communities a voice, and put railways and stations at the heart of community life, while supporting a shift to sustainable, more social forms of travel, including rail.

Research from Community Rail Network reveals that each year, more than 8,000 volunteers give around 370,000 hours of their time to community rail, worth £32million in social value to individuals and their communities.

In addition, an estimated 65,000 young people per year are involved in community rail education programmes and youth engagement activities, spanning more than 1,500 schools, colleges and youth groups.

Throughout the year [Name of CRP/group] [use this *optional* paragraph to detail any other highlights/projects/initiatives from the past year or use it to talk about the CRP/group’s plans for the future].

**Bill Freeman, interim chief executive of Community Rail Network, said:** “We’re proud to see such a packed programme of community-led activities being held across Britain during Community Rail Week, especially during this Railway 200 anniversary year.

Community Rail Week shines a spotlight on community rail partnerships and station volunteer groups and the innovative projects they deliver across Britain, bringing people together and promoting the benefits of rail. Community rail has an inspiring track record of promoting travel confidence and broadening horizons, sometimes with life-changing effects, while giving communities a voice on transport, and putting railways and stations at the heart of community life.”

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

***ENDS***

For further details, images, comments, and interviews, and to attend the [insert name of event if applicable] contact [insert contact details for media enquiries].

**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 75 community rail partnerships and 1,300 station friends volunteer groups across Britain www.communityrail.org.uk

2. [Insert basic information about your partnership/group here to give extra background information that editors may need]