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Interim chief executive

AGM
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Key numbers on us & our delivery

- ✓ 75 community rail partnership members
- ✓ 330 station friends & community station members
- ✓ 19 webinars, training courses & events
- ✓ 180 entries to our awards, with 19 winners & 430 guests
- ✓ 92 activities held in Community Rail Week
- ✓ 8,255 social media followers
- ✓ £505,725 provided in grants
- ✓ 21 staff members



Supporting & empowering members



This year, our comprehensive programme of training and events gave our members the opportunity to connect, collaborate, learn and share over a wide range of topics, including:

- Crowdfunding for community rail partnerships
- Community engagement
- Project management and delivering outcomes
- Recruiting volunteers
- Sustainable and wildlife-friendly gardening
- Developing trails and walking routes
- Submitting a strong awards entry



3
webinars



6
workshops



6
bespoke
training
sessions



4
networking
sessions



The Community Rail Conference, which we run jointly with the Department for Transport for CRPs, was held in Nottingham in November 2023. We trialled our first 'open platform' format, where over 140 delegates were empowered to shape the agenda, putting forward and delivering 18 half-hour sessions on topics they considered important for deeper discussion.

90%

Said the opportunity to share ideas and hear from others was good or very good.

96%

Of delegates said that they heard ideas/perspectives to help them develop activities or projects.

Strategic & policy advice

- Advising via: Ministers, Shadow teams, Net Zero Transport Board, DfT teams
- Feeding into rail reform and transformation including GBRTT
- Chairing Sustainable Transport Alliance
- Responding to Labour's Plan for Rail
- Speaking at industry events such as Great Transport Debate, Rail Partner's event at the Liberal Democrats Conference and a consortium in Utrecht about community rail development in the Netherlands
- Regional engagement with mayors, senior officials, consultations on strategy & transport related exclusion



Putting community rail at the forefront of change

- Growing Scenic Rail Britain reach: 8.9k web visitors/month; 3.7k bulletin subs; 15k social followers
- Days Out by Rail campaign: 4million users reached with community rail-led promotional content
- Community Rail Awards: 180 entries, 437 guests
- Community Rail Week 2023: Connecting Communities by Rail



Our 19th Community Rail Awards returned bigger and better than ever in Swansea in March 2023. The celebratory evening, sponsored by Transport for Wales and Great Western Railway, saw our members recognised for their positive contribution, enriching lives, enhancing local places, and promoting sustainable and inclusive travel and mobility.

430
Guests

19
Winners

180
Entries



Community Rail Week in numbers



70

CRPs and station
groups involved



2.3K

unique users
visited our website



52

partners and 12 train operating
companies supported the
campaign on social media



92

member-led
events and activities
took place



79

pieces of media
coverage



2.8K

posts with
#CommunityRailWeek or
#ConnectingCommunitiesByRail
on Twitter



Members' survey 2024



91% said they got value for money from their membership



74% had received direct support from us in the past year



82% had attended at least one event/ training course/webinar



86% said we communicate well with members



Yatton Station Volunteers

Looking ahead to 2025-26



- Ensuring community rail insights are fed in/heard by new administration in Westminster.
- Creating opportunities to shape and clarify the place of community rail in a reformed UK rail network.
- Continued focus on integration – as a means of achieving more sustainable and inclusive travel.
- Developing our next support and development strategy.
- Navigating a challenging financial climate.
- Growing importance of measuring impact/social value.
- Raising the profile of community rail - Railway 200.
- Charity Registration.



High Peak & Hope Valley



Key opportunities for you



- Community Rail Conference (Oct/Nov)
- Community Rail Awards (13 Mar)
- Community Rail Week (19-25 May)
- Networking & sharing sessions for officers / chairs / station groups
- Tourism, education & modal integration networks
- Topic-specific training, webinars, resources
- Fundraising toolkit
- Talk to the team for queries and help

>> Please share evidence of your impact!



New River Line CRP

Use your member benefits:
communityrail.org.uk/join-us

Keep up to date:
communityrail.org.uk
Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky
TikTok and X

Keep talking to us:
[communityrail.org.uk/about-us/
our-team-and-board/](https://communityrail.org.uk/about-us/our-team-and-board/)



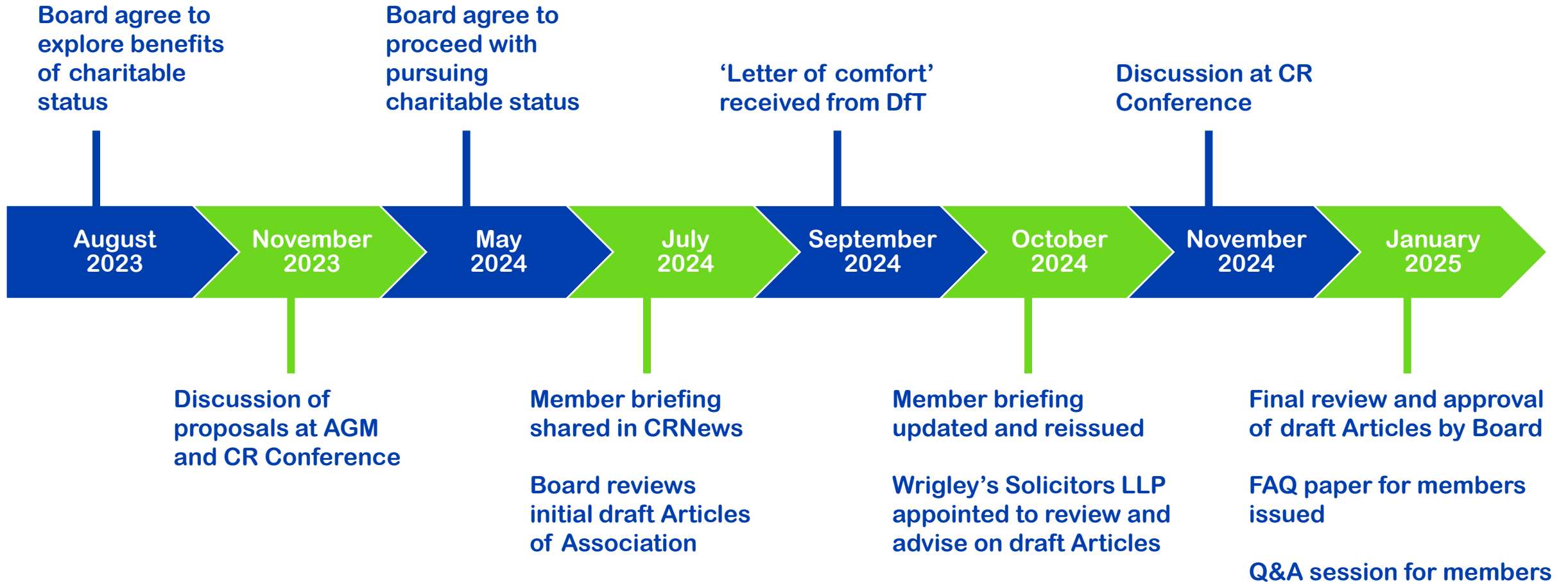
CRPs at London Liverpool Street during
Community Rail Week

Questions, comments, thoughts?

Charity registration



The process so far...



NB: AGM & charitable status vote regularly featured in CR News Oct24-Jan25.

Charity registration



Key benefits

- **Strengthening identity** – being more clear about our social purpose and value
- **Building trust** – greater transparency through enhanced public reporting
- **Enhancing governance** – enshrines duty to act in best interests of the charity
- **Creating new opportunities** – accessing funds and resources only open to charities
- **Managing risks** – reducing reliance on certain types of income



Charity registration



What's not changing?

- Our work - all our activities fit with the defined charitable purpose
- No impact on members' own legal structures
- No implications for members that are not charities themselves
- We remain a democratic organisation accountable to and involving its members in decision-making
- We can still hold and distribute funds to members
- Any additional compliance costs will be offset by tax savings

