

Progress Report

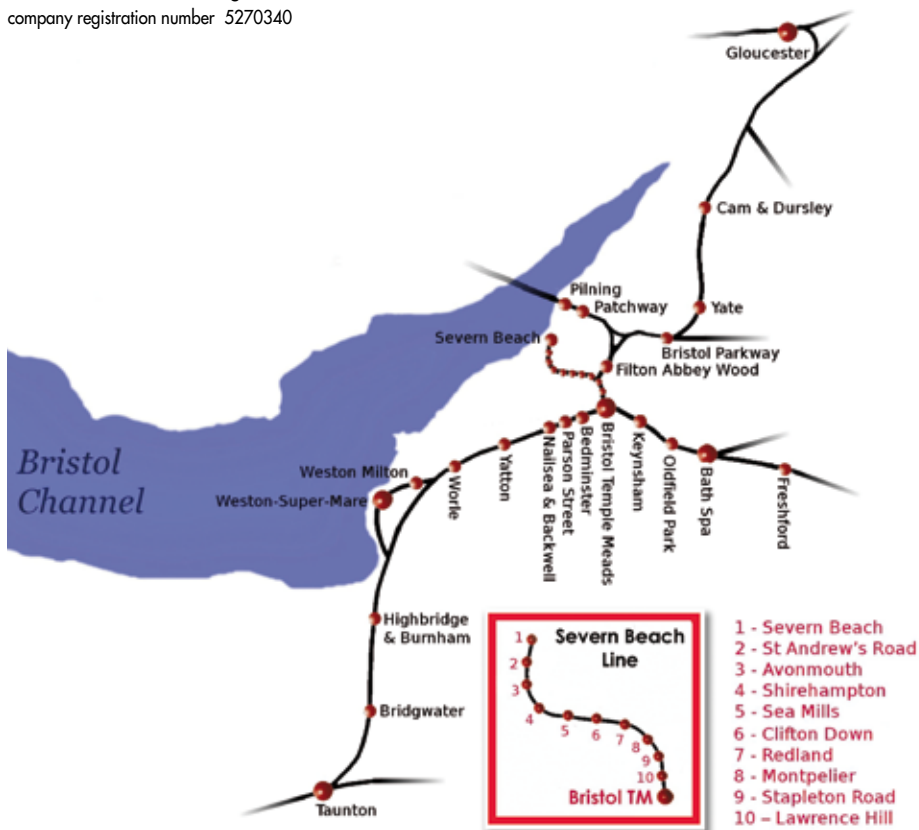
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*Working with communities
to improve local
stations and train services*

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Cover photograph - Work on the new community garden at Patchway being undertaken through the Community Payback scheme

Progress Report

Community Rail Partnerships are a means by which stakeholders play an active role in the development of their local rail service. They bring together train operators, local authorities, employers, local organisations and community groups.

The Severnside Community Rail Partnership was formed in summer 2004. Its main aim is to identify and implement measures to encourage the use of local trains on routes radiating from Bristol; to ensure that access to local stations is easy and that stations provide a safe and welcoming environment. The emphasis is on working with partners and local communities to deliver quick wins and small-scale initiatives that make local rail services more attractive and bring passenger benefits.

The Partnership covers the network of routes radiating from Bristol, bounded by Gloucester, Bath/Freshford, Weston-super-Mare, Taunton, and the Severn Estuary; this includes the branch line to Severn Beach.

The Partnership's principal sponsors are Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset, Somerset, and South Gloucestershire Councils, Business West, First Great Western, and the West of England Partnership, who together form the Management Board for the Partnership. We have also welcomed support from CrossCountry Trains, Network Rail and the British Transport Police. The Principal Sponsors also have the option of being nominated as Directors of the Partnership, who are legally responsible for the conduct of the Partnership, in accordance with the Companies Acts. The Principal Sponsors fund the running costs, including the post of Partnership Officer, our one employee. Projects are funded largely through specific grants, assisted by local and community voluntary work. The Partnership was re-constituted in June 2008 as a Community Interest Company.

A significant part of our work is encouraging schools to take an interest in looking after their local station. The hard work undertaken with local schools by our Partnership Officer, Sarah Collins, was recognised by the Partnership receiving two national awards during 2009. The Partnership won the Network Rail Community Engagement Award for the Severnside Schools Community Stations Programme, and we came second in the national Community Rail Awards for our work with local schools at Weston Milton Station. A key factor in our success is the strong link we have with the Probation Service, who provide much of the labour, under the Community Payback scheme, for the initial station renovation work. The development of these arrangements has generated interest locally and nationally, and it is gratifying that the Department for Transport Rail Minister, as well as national politicians from all the main parties, have visited the Partnership and seen at first hand the work we are doing.

We welcome suggestions from local communities, organisations and individuals for new areas of work which would be appropriate for the Partnership.



Receiving the Network Rail Community Engagement Award from Jimmy Carr

Improving local stations

During 2009 we continued to focus on working with communities to improve local unstaffed stations to provide a safer, and more friendly, waiting environment. Most of the local stations in our area have now benefited from improvement schemes. We have been greatly supported in this work by the Probation Service - much of the heavier work has been done by offenders as part of the Community Payback scheme. This is then followed up by encouraging local schools to look after station gardens and to brighten up the stations with artwork displays - under the banner of the Severnside Schools Community Stations Programme.

Some local stations are now being formally "adopted" by local schools. Experience has shown that involving the local community, and particularly local schools, encourages more pride and less vandalism at stations; and better stations attract new passengers to the trains. We are also grateful to Bristol Clean and Green, the local authorities, First Great Western and Network Rail for their support, funding and encouragement for the station improvement programme. Thanks also goes to the British Transport Police who have provided additional support through their Neighbourhood Policing Team.

In 2009 we have delivered

- further improvements at Weston Milton including restoration of the station gardens and displays of student artwork which resulted in a national Community Rail award. The station has been adopted by Worle Secondary School, Milton Park School and Westhaven School
- improvements at Parson Street, including mosaic and other artwork by local school children from Parson Street Primary School, who have adopted the station. The work at Parson Street was part of the Severnside Schools Community Stations Programme, which won the Network Rail Community Engagement Award
- clearance of overgrown foliage in the car parks at Worle and at Nailsea and Backwell
- artwork at Oldfield Park, prepared by Oldfield Park Infant School



Planting the new garden at Weston Milton



A bright welcome from Oldfield Park Infants School

- clearance of overgrown foliage from the platforms at Bedminster
- more improvements at Patchway including considerable progress on a new station garden in partnership with Patchway Community College

On the Severn Beach line stations we have worked closely with partners and the local community to continue to deliver a comprehensive station improvement package.

This has included

- planters at Severn Beach. Children at Severn Beach Primary School have provided artwork, which will be displayed as soon as the new platform fence is erected
- continuing station maintenance work at Avonmouth
- maintenance of the station planters at Shirehampton
- new planters at Sea Mills
- repainting the railings at Clifton Down, and the installation of new planters
- new stylistic pop-art portrait artwork, undertaken by Fairfield High School, to enhance the appearance of the traditional railway station building at Redland
- continued support for the Eastside Roots garden centre on the disused trackbed at Stapleton Road, and installation of planters



New planters for Severn Beach



Stylistic pop-art portraits at Redland



In addition, following successful bids under the Department for Transport's Access for All - Small Station Schemes, and with additional funding from First Great Western and Bristol City Council, refurbished shelters, signs, lighting, seats, and handrails have been provided. A new, and very welcome, Customer Information System provides real time information at eight stations on the Severn Beach line, and it is hoped that CCTV will be installed during 2010.



At work on Oldfield Park Garden

We are working with

- Yatton station group to achieve a station cafe and other improvements
- "On-Board" - the Oldfield Park station group - on further landscaping
- Yate station group on improvements to the station
- Somerset County Council to replace the artwork at Bridgwater station with new designs by East Bridgwater Community School
- the local community in Highbridge to undertake a station planting scheme as part of the Britain in Bloom competition



Preparing the artwork for Parson Street

Better local train services

The Partnership very much welcomed the Department for Transport's announcement that the Bristol - London inter-city train services are to be electrified. Depending on decisions on rolling stock cascade, this brings the prospect of electric trains for some Bristol area local services, and for more modern diesel trains on other local routes. However this also brings a number of challenges, in particular how the continuing growth in passengers and overcrowding on local and regional routes is to be tackled until electric services are provided after 2017. The proposed new diesel trains for the Cardiff-Bristol-Portsmouth service would have brought much needed additional capacity, and there was disappointment when this order was cancelled. We look forward to clarification on the measures which will need to be implemented to cater for passenger growth in the period to 2017.



Attracting more passengers to use local trains

One of the aims of the Partnership is to attract more passengers to use those trains where there is space. During 2009 we have

- produced a range of leaflets aimed at encouraging families to go by train to local attractions, and sponsored visits by Paddington Bear to meet children arriving by train
- further developed the dedicated Severn Beach line website: www.severnbeachline.org. As well as details of times, fares and general information, this gives direct access to First Great Western's live train running system. Currently there are over 13,000 visits to the site each month
- encouraged scholars to use the train, where there is capacity, by promoting, and issuing on behalf of First Great Western, scholar season tickets for the Severn Beach line, to Filton College, and within North Somerset: we are working on extending the number of schools and colleges in this scheme
- worked with the Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways on a summer count of passengers using the Severn Beach line, and on other promotional activities
- worked with North Somerset NHS PCT on developing walks for health from local railway stations
- worked with the Highways Agency on encouraging commuters to use local trains, rather drive to work on the M5, during the period of the motorway reconstruction
- participated in the South Gloucestershire Working Group, which produced a travel plan for Bristol Parkway station
- worked with Somerset County Council on promoting Highbridge and Burnham station



Better information for passengers at local stations

In 2010 the Sunday service on the Severn Beach line will be considerably improved with three additional round trips, taking the total to eleven. During the summer all the trains will operate to Severn Beach, with some continuing through to, or starting from, Weston-super-Mare. This will provide new journey opportunities as well as the challenge of marketing and attracting passengers to the enhanced service. As part of the new Sunday arrangements, First Great Western is looking at easing the current restrictions on the number of cycles permitted on the Severn Beach trains, which will for instance facilitate family train+cycle trips using Severn Beach station as a railhead.

Other Partnership activities

Other work undertaken by the Partnership during 2009 has included

- briefing Members on the draft Route Utilisation Strategy produced by Network Rail
- co-ordination of responses from Members to proposed timetable changes
- participation in various PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings arranged by the British Transport Police
- developing links with major employers using Filton Abbey Wood station, in particular the Ministry of Defence and the University of the West of England
- encouraging integration between rail and bus at Weston-super-Mare station, in particular by provision of up-to-date timetables, maps and signing
- publicising the new local rail-bus service at Nailsea and Backwell station
- working with First Great Western to reduce ticketless travel in the Partnership's area

Train Times
From Highbridge & Burnham
13 December 2009 to 22 May 2010

Please note that not all trains call at all stations shown on the map. Map shown for illustrative purposes only

Bristol Temple Meads			Taunton		
Mondays to Fridays	Saturdays	Sundays	Mondays to Fridays	Saturdays	Sundays
0549	0548	0853	0800	0900	0907
0621	0620	1039	0702	0659	1045
0655	0713	1136	0801	0901	1149
0712	0752	1330	0911	0941	1344
0731	0816	1537	0940	1033	1640
0748	0918	1737	1034	1133	1847
0856	1031	1841	1134	1233	1950
0959	1127	1924	1232	1334	2109
1027	1227	2040	1334	1434	
1122	1327	2155	1434	1534	
1227	1427		1536	1634	
1327	1527		1637	1738	
1431	1627		1738	1834	
1534	1725		1840	1934	
1636	1827		1907	2034	
1725	1927		1940	2139	
1827	2038		2041	2238	
1938	2148		2144		
2050	2155		2240b		
2140			2314c		
2219b			2356b		
2250c			0114c		
2305b					

b. Runs until 23 January
c. Runs from 13 February

This poster is produced in association with Severnide Community Rail Partnership

Although we do our best to make sure information is accurate at the time of going to print, changes may be necessary which we will publicise locally at stations, on our website and through National Rail Enquiries. Services may be changed temporarily to cater for train holiday arrangements. We may also have to alter train times or operate rail replacement bus services, especially at weekends, where engineering work is being carried out. You should also confirm train times before travelling by calling National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484600. Calls may be recorded.

First Great Western www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk

Easier to read summary timetable poster

Passenger Statistics

During 2009, passenger use of local stations increased by around 16%. Growth has been particularly marked at many of the Bristol suburban stations, with increases of around 30% or more at Redland, Lawrence Hill (on the Filton Abbey Wood route), Shirehampton and Parson Street. The South Gloucestershire local stations at Yate, Patchway and Filton Abbey Wood also all showed over 30% growth.

Passengers using local stations on weekdays

Station	2007	2008	2009	Station	2007	2008	2009
Yate	694	707	931	Severn Beach	135	107	135
Patchway	139	156	234	St Andrews Road	30	19	18
Filton Abbey Wood	1958	2065	3102	Avonmouth	218	294	243
Bedminster	156	280	322	Shirehampton	86	158	214
Parson Street	108	208	269	Sea Mills	121	166	191
Nailsea and Backwell	1315	1477	1441	Clifton Down	500	827	981
Yatton	1192	1346	1394	Redland	264	474	635
Worle	841	1084	1137	Montpelier	253	495	623
Weston Milton	261	268	221	Stapleton Road - sb	326	489	540
Weston-s-Mare	2279	2253	2579	Lawrence Hill - sb	263	334	366
Keynsham	839	972	1034	Temple Meads - sb	649	1250	1379
Oldfield Park	841	985	974	Severn Beach line	2845	4613	5325
Freshford	89	98	109	trains total			
Highbridge	408	410	436	Stapleton Road - nsb	91	300	318
Bridgwater	474	542	574	Lawrence Hill - nsb	49	183	308
				Stations - Temple Meads - Severn Beach - all trains	2985	5096	5951
				Grand total Greater Bristol local stations (excl Somerset)	13697	16995	19698

Notes: The above figures are from the November weekday count which is undertaken annually by the local authorities (Somerset stations at Highbridge and Bridgwater are July daytime only for 2007 and 2008, and November daytime only for 2009) The figures show the total number both boarding and alighting at the station on the day of the count. Some 2007 figures might have been affected by train disruption on the day of the count. The 2009 figures are provisional.

nsb = not Severn Beach line passengers **sb** = Severn Beach line passengers

Passengers using local and regional trains in the West of England 2009

Route	2009
Cardiff - Bristol - Westbury - Portsmouth/Weymouth	7,054,000
Bristol - Severn Beach	664,000
Bristol - Weston-super-Mare - Taunton	1,523,000
Bristol - Gloucester - Great Malvern	1,014,000
Total West of England local/regional journeys	10,256,000

Notes: These figures are from First Great Western ticket sales allocated Lennon data and include only FGW journeys. Some journeys made for example on rover tickets or employee passes, or on substitute buses, may not have been recorded. So the figures may underscore the total journeys, but this is unlikely to be significant



Accounts and financial statement

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership Year Ended 31 March 2009 - Balance Sheet

	£ 2008-9	£ 2007-8
Fixed Assets	900	280
Current assets		
Debtors	-	968
Cash at bank and in hand	13,711	16,078
	13,711	17,046
Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	(512)	(375)
Net Assets	13,199	16,671
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	14,099	16,951
Represented By:		
Restricted funds	4,200	11,039
Unrestricted funds	9,899	5,912
	14,099	16,951

The Directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 1985 (the Act) relating to the audit of the accounts for the year by virtue of section 249A(1), and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 249B(2) of the Act. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

Year Ended 31 March 2009 - Profit And Loss Account

	£ 2008-9	£ 2007-8
Income	81,852	57,697
Administrative expenses	(84,839)	(49,462)
Operating profit/(loss)	(2,987)	8,235
Interest receivable	135	-
Profit/(loss) on ordinary Activities before taxation	(2,852)	8,235
Corporation tax	-	-
Retained profit brought forward	16,951	8,716
Balance carried forward	14,099	16,951

The Company has no recognised gains or losses other than the profit/loss for the above financial period. None of the Company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above financial period.

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership

Year ended 31 March 2009 - Income and expenditure information

	£ 2008-9 restricted	£ 2008-9 unrestricted	£ 2008-9 total	£ 2007-8 total
Income				
Contributions from partners	-	48,500	48,500	39,180
Bank Interest	-	135	135	-
Santa Train project	-	-	-	1,415
Severn Beach line marketing	-	-	-	500
Station improvement projects	13,087	-	13,087	10,162
Leaflets	462	-	462	1,370
Scholar tickets project	19,803	-	19,803	5,070
	33,352	48,635	81,987	57,697
Expenditure				
Travel & Subsistence	-	4,162	4,162	3,226
Salary costs	-	35,793	35,793	31,480
Miscellaneous	1,248	1,037	2,285	1,661
Depreciation	-	580	580	280
Telephone/IT	-	2,651	2,651	2,568
Postage/stationery	-	273	273	238
Meetings/Conferences/Seminars	-	840	840	852
Severn Beach Timetables	-	-	-	943
Severn Beach Marketing	705	-	705	-
Santa Train project	-	-	-	633
Printing/Publicity	-	-	-	924
Accountancy/Audit/Insurance	-	512	512	733
Station improvement projects	15,102	-	15,102	2,516
Leaflets	2,254	-	2,254	-
Scholar tickets project	19,682	-	19,682	3,408
	38,991	45,848	84,839	49,462
Surplus/deficit for the year	(5,639)	2,787	(2,852)	8,235
	-	-	-	-
Transfer between funds	(1,200)	1,200	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Balance brought forward	11,039	5,912	16,951	8,716
Balance at 31/03/09	4,200	9,899	14,099	16,951

Contributions in kind: we are grateful for travel passes provided by First Great Western and Cross Country Trains, which are not included above



Local authorities gain considerable benefits from their funding towards the running costs of the Partnership.

Active help in delivering Local Transport Plans and other Targets

Local authority targets to attract increased use of local rail services will not be achieved without considerable work; the Partnership's active role in this is

- working with train operators to achieve more frequent off-peak local train services - already largely delivered
- working with train operators to resolve problems of lack of peak capacity
- making rail travel easier for local passengers
 - simplified timetable posters - now displayed at all unstaffed stations
 - better, and better targeted, local publicity through leaflets and special promotions
 - reducing barriers to travel through
 - improving station safety and security
 - better station access - the Partnership is able to sponsor and attract match funding for small schemes
 - promoting integration - eg combined bus-rail tickets

The Partnership's work also helps local authorities deliver a sustainable transport system, as well as achieving the wider objectives set out in Local Area Agreements, assisting with local regeneration schemes and promoting economic growth. Much of our work is in socially deprived areas which helps meet local authority social inclusivity targets

Access to funding, which is not available to local authorities

As a Community Interest Company, the Partnership is able to attract grants and match funding not available to public sector bodies. This has already been used to help deliver local station improvements

Augmenting Councils' influence on the rail industry

The Partnership provides an opportunity for local authorities to have regular and easy access to senior rail management; and for local authorities to come together with other Partnership members and the train operators to make representations, for instance to the Department for Transport. The Partnership "club membership" provides a mechanism for consultation, input and influence on rail issues varying from significant policy development to more practical issues such as local timetables, which would not otherwise be so readily available

Information for local authority members and transport officers

The Partnership provides a source of independent expertise and briefing for local authorities on rail issues, such as timetable changes, rolling stock, performance and infrastructure development issues. The briefings help local authority members and officers, and reduce the need for each local authority separately to devote time and effort to researching rail issues

Support for the local economy by encouraging rail tourism

The Partnership works closely with tourism agencies, and has produced a range of attractive leaflets promoting days out by train in the West of England

A mechanism for involving local communities constructively in supporting public transport

The Partnership provides a mechanism for involving local communities constructively in supporting public transport - for example not only do art displays and gardens help to make the stations more friendly places, but local "ownership" helps reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour