

Meet The Funders

Tuesday 7th 2024

Rob Whitehead

Community Engagement Manager

Community Rail

Nationally the **Community Rail Network (CRN)** provide support, advice and information to the community rail movement through membership services and events including the Community Rail Awards

Community Rail Partnerships on our network

- Meldreth, Shepreth & Foxton CRP
- Darent Valley CRP
- Beds & Herts CRP
- Southeast Communities Rail Partnership

In **2023** GTR worked with **4 CRP's**, along **9 Community Rail Lines** and assisted projects which were nominated for **12 Community Rail Awards**



Station Partnerships – station adoption and group support



In **2023** GTR supported **150+ station partners**, assisted in the creation of **15 new station partners**; produced **seasonal “Partners Platform” newsletters**; ran a successful **Community Conference** for all station partners; ran GTR’s first round of **Your Station Your Community Improvement Funding** supporting 19 groups working in areas covering ASB to rewilding; producing **£115 million** in estimated Social Value from £380,000 of grants



Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

- ❑ The fund supports causes that are of key importance to local communities on the GTR network and also that impact on our work as a transport provider.
- ❑ The fund is a kickstarter for projects that can build lasting social value; under the following key themes: mental health, education and employability skills amongst marginalised groups, diversity and inclusion and environmental sustainability.
- ❑ We welcome applications from registered charities, community interest companies (CICs), community groups and other not-for-profit organisations such as community rail partnerships, schools & colleges, business partnerships, town councils and parish councils.

Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

Our Priority Subject Areas:

- ❑ **Positive Mental Health** - Mental health activities that encourage working with local partners to signpost or refer people to support services or initiatives that have a positive impact on people's wellbeing. Connecting people together to take positive action to prevent suicide, an issue that has devastating and far-reaching impact on people, customers and communities. Utilising the station space to communicate positive mental health messaging.
- ❑ **Diversity and Inclusion** - Support for community projects that create opportunities for groups who are socially and economically excluded, in particular looking at digital exclusion and ASB issues that affect those groups. Building on the strengths and knowledge in the communities we serve. Our ambition is to create an inclusive culture where customers and colleagues feel able to be themselves and feel they belong to their local communities. Facilitate spaces or events where parts of communities that are often separated can come together.

Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

- ❑ **Employability and confidence building** - Promoting employability and education amongst marginalised groups by investing in the skills development for now and the future, developing the creation of social enterprise within those communities, and working with young people to create positive opportunities and addressing such issues as anti-social behaviour
- ❑ **Environmental Sustainability** - Supporting environmental projects that reduce emissions, increase recycling, restoring natural spaces or encouraging sustainable mobility shift to encourage customers to make greener choices to travel by rail and getting to our stations sustainably - by bike, bus, foot or electric vehicle.
- ❑ **Creating a welcoming station environment** - Regenerating redundant station spaces for community hubs, providing space for activities that enrich the local community and bring station estate back into use. Creating a welcoming ambiance to our stations enhancing our customers' experience and engaging with hard-to-reach groups and/or addressing issues such as anti-social behaviour that have wider social impact.

Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

Where we can fund

- Initiatives taking place in and around stations served by Great Northern, Southern or Thameslink on the GTR network, that make a positive impact in one or more of the focus areas.
- The communities supported by your project should be served by one of those stations.
- We can, however, only accept bids for work on station property that are managed by Great Northern, Southern or Thameslink

Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

What does a good application look like?

- An application that clearly links in with our priority areas
- Gives details on who the primary beneficiaries are, the numbers of beneficiaries and how you have engaged with those groups or are user led
- What benefits will be delivered and a mechanism for measuring the benefits and impact
- An accurate and succinct project scope outlining why financial support is needed
- Budget breakdown of funding request, overall project budget and key project milestones
- Show that you have read the guidance notes!
- Talk to us

Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

DfT - Customer Community Improvement Fund

2023/24

- **£380,000** for community-led social and environmental projects
- **19 charities and voluntary organisations supported** to run projects in areas served by GTR.
- Chosen from over **373 applications**.
- Funding support ranges from **£1,000 to £50,000**, with some awards split over two years.

2024/25

- Applicants encouraged to bid at **£10,000** level
- **Applications closed** Dec 2023
- £2.2 million bids received
- **2nd Round of selection process** almost finished, with final approval from the DfT expected in May 2024.
- 41 projects selected or carried over (33 new projects)



2025/26

- Anticipated budget of £450,000
- Opening for applications late 2024

Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund

Funded Projects 2023/24

- **Abandofbrothers**
- **AFK – Working With Disability**
- **Artytime CIC**
- **AudioActive**
- **Autism Bedfordshire**
- **Citizens Online**
- **Clean Up Hastings**
- **Co-Creative Connection**
- **The Daylight Club**
- **Enfield Chase Station Volunteers - Enfield Society**
- **Growing Redhill**
- **InStreatham Business Improvement District**
- **King’s College Hospital Charity**
- **Missing People**
- **Onwards & Upwards**
- **Red Balloon Educational Trust**
- **St Albans Cycle Hub CIC**
- **Sustainable Earlswood**
- **The Winchester Project**



Rail Social Value Tool (RSVT)



Overview

Developed by RSSB and Network Rail for the rail industry, establishing a framework for reporting and evidencing initiatives. Launched to the industry in May 2023.

GTR is an early adopter.

What does it mean

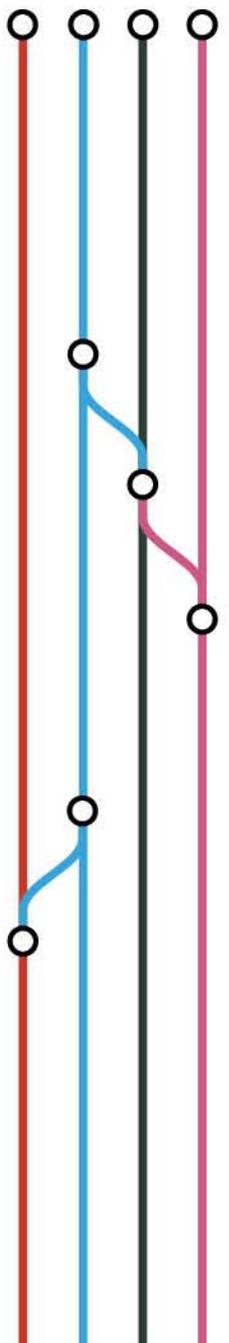
The RSVT will enable the social value of projects and activities to be captured through monetised and non-monetised indicators across a range of social impacts.



Detail from the Kickstart employability scheme

- 22 participants – young people
- £198,000 cost

Social Value from Operational Impacts	
Fiscal	N/A
Economic	N/A
Social	£1,376,178.47
£1,376,178.47	



Contacts

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We're with you

