



Conwy Valley and North West Wales Coast Community Rail Partnership

Annual Report 2021/ 22



Partneriaeth Rheilffordd
Cymunedol Dyffryn Conwy ac
Arfordir Gogledd Orllewin Cymru

Conwy Valley and North West
Wales Coast Community Rail
Partnership

Chairman's foreword

Once more, another year has seen significant changes to the CRP in a number of ways. Our new Community Rail Officer, Karen Williams, has settled into her role and has impressed all with the enthusiasm she has brought to building on the foundations laid by Melanie Lawton. We have seen an extension to the Partnership's area of operation to include the section of line from Llandudno Junction to Holyhead which has meant establishing new contacts and assessing the needs and aspirations of the various communities along the route. As part of this, we have increased our co-operation with Avanti West Coast and we are grateful to that operator for their support.

The new hosting arrangements with Creating Enterprise have been successfully bedded in and are working well. We have witnessed the opening, by Lesley Griffiths MS, of the new Community Hub at Llandudno Railway Station, which has brought back into beneficial use a disused section which was formerly the old Booking Office and Parcels Room. The establishment of the Hub has provided a much-welcomed social facility. The development is the result of positive collaboration between Transport for Wales and Cartrefi Conwy.

Strong relationships have been built up with organisations such as Mind and Carneddau Landscape Partnership which have led to the provision of outdoor activities linked to the Conwy Valley line and provide opportunities for greater social inclusivity. This partnership working saw the CRP, Mind and Carneddau landscape Partnership create a 'Walks for Wellbeing project' which gave local people the opportunity to attend mindfulness walks. This project was shortlisted at the Community Rail Network awards, for which we achieved 3rd place under the category 'Best Community Engagement' Work continues to identify similar organisations which would benefit from joint working along our sections of railway. To this end, we are keen to expand our membership base to include more third-sector bodies active in the field.

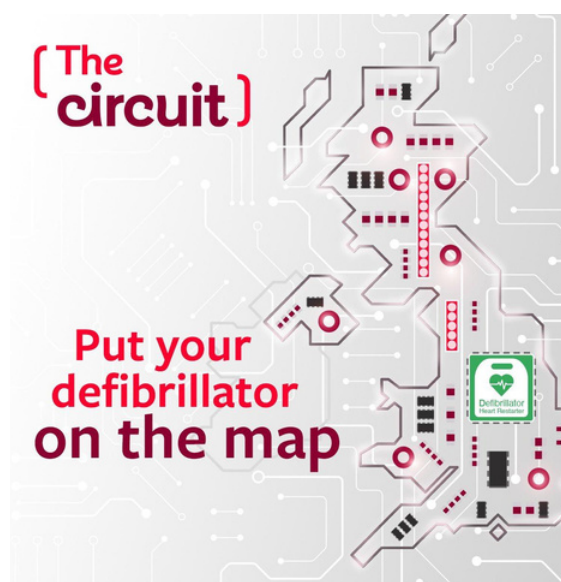
In terms of operation, Covid 19 has, of course, had a significant impact on the rail industry in common with all other activities. Temporary timetables have been in place and it is to be hoped that the Operators will provide a more comprehensive service in the near future. North Wales is heavily dependent on the tourism and leisure sectors and the ability for people, particularly in the conurbations of North-West England and the Midlands, to travel into area is something which needs to be enhanced.

I am very grateful to Karen for her support during the past year and also my Vice-Chair, Annwen Daniels, who has provided such a very useful community link with Blaenau Ffestiniog. It has been a pleasure to work alongside our various industry partners and other organisations.

Philip C Evans JP FIoL



Defibrillator Installation Project -The partnership worked collaboratively with Awyr Las NHS charity, Keep the Beats and Welsh Ambulance PADS support officer Tomos Hughes, together with funding sourced from Cartrefi Conwy and Menter Mon, lifesaving defibrillators were installed in several locations along both lines covered by the partnership. Locations included Rhosneigr on Anglesey and independent living accommodation in Llanrwst. Rail officer Karen Williams and Tomos sourced locations and permission from business owners, who agreed for the device to be installed on their premises. All 7 units are now registered to 'The circuit' the national defibrillator network, meaning they are connected to NHS services across the UK and can be accessed easily and quickly to help save lives.



Walks for Wellbeing – in the summer of 2021, the CRP approached Carneddau Landscape Partnership and Conwy Mind, and discussed the possibility of working together to create some walks within the Carneddau region, aimed to support local people who had experienced isolation and loneliness caused by Welsh Government restrictions during the pandemic.

Walk leader and Conwy Mind trainer Nick Meakins identified and routed 4 walks within the partnership catchment area which focused on the 5 ways to wellbeing. Feedback from participants indicated that 90% of them felt that they were better able to get things done and had a greater sense of achievement.



TALK & LISTEN,
BE THERE,
FEEL CONNECTED



DO WHAT YOU CAN,
ENJOY WHAT YOU DO,
MOVE YOUR MOOD



REMEMBER
THE SIMPLE
THINGS THAT
GIVE YOU JOY



EMBRACE NEW
EXPERIENCES,
SEE OPPORTUNITIES,
SURPRISE YOURSELF



Your time,
your words,
your presence

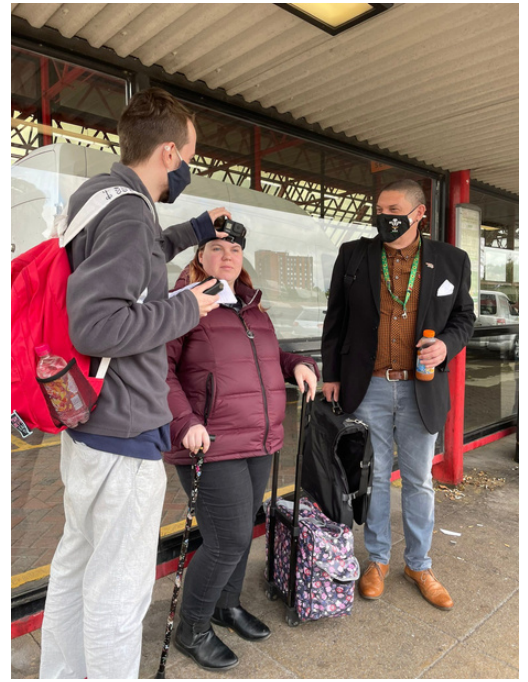


Covid resilience fund– following the challenges faced by local community groups brought on by Covid restrictions, the CRP teamed up with their ToC, Transport for Wales, to create a resilience fund, which offered local community groups with 5 miles from their local railway station the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £500 which would help them in their recovery as things started to open up. The grant was facilitated by Conwy Voluntary Services Council (CVSC) who supported with advertising, managing the fund and screening applications.



Some of the applications received included supporting a small group, Clwb Y Cob in Valley, Anglesey who serve approx. 60 local residents aged 50 and over, and who had sadly lost their secretary during covid who had been using their own computer to store membership details. The grant enabled the group to create a new database, create newsletters for members and set up zoom meetings, allowing members to stay connected during challenging times. Each successful applicant attended a 'Teams' call showcasing how and where the grant fund would be spent and who would benefit. This was a great opportunity to form new links and relationships with groups located within the partnership catchment area.

Confident to Travel- The CRP teamed up with Transport for Wales and funded a project focusing on a lack of confidence whilst using public transport. TAPE, a local community music and film group were asked to film and produce it, with the help of young adults who were interested in media production. Scripts were produced for 2 separate purposeful journeys. The first was a bus journey to the job centre, where a young person had an appointment with their work coach. The second being a purposeful train journey to a family wedding, using connecting rail services at busy interchange stations. The film focused on the stress and anxiety experienced by people with poor mental health or hidden disabilities.



Wales on Rails - The partnership was one of several Community Rail Partnerships across Wales who contributed to a new website aimed at promoting tourism using sustainable travel across Wales. The website features interesting facts and information on attractions at each station featured. There was an official launch which took place at Cardiff Central station and attended by Vaughan Gething Minister for the Economy and Transport of Wales and James Price CEO of Tfw. The event was also attended by Tim Dunne, British railway historian and TV presenter. More information on Wales on Rails can be found here: [Cledrau Cymru / Wales on Rails](https://www.cledrau.cymru/)



Holyhead Railway station art project -

Rail Officer Karen Williams and BTP worked together with pupils from Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi who were approached to create artwork which will replace old and outdated art currently displayed on platform 2.

Holyhead station is experiencing anti-social behaviour, and the idea of bringing in young people for the project will hopefully give them a sense of responsibility and pride in their creations. The pupils chose their messages which included water safety (Holyhead station is situated at the Port of Holyhead) and rail safety, as well as mental health support. Sharon Bibby, youth justice worker, enlisted the help of local graffiti artist Andy Birch, who supported the pupils with their work, sharing his skills and knowledge. The project was funded by Avanti West Coast.

Alison Barker, BTP PCSO said "It has been an absolute pleasure to work with The Conwy Valley & North West Wales CRP and the students of Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi on this project. As PCSO's working for British Transport Police an opportunity like this to get to know and engage with our local community is wonderful. The artwork is amazing and a credit to all who took part. We particularly enjoyed working in class with the students, getting to know them and breaking down barriers that can sometimes stand between young people and the police" Sharon Bibby said "It's been a real pleasure to work on this project. The pupils have had an amazing experience with Andy and the spray paints. New skills have been learnt whilst having fun and gaining a new qualification. We can't wait to see our art displayed at the station"

AVANTI
WEST COAST



If you have been inspired by the work of the CRP and your organisation would like to get involved with ideas, or as a supporter, please contact:

conwyvalleyrailway.co.uk



@LeinDconwyVLine



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