

TRANSWILTS COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP – CONSTITUTION

Introduction

The TransWilts Community Rail Partnership is a group of like-minded organisations seeking to improve the TransWilts railway line which connects Swindon to Salisbury via Chippenham, Melksham, Trowbridge, Westbury, Dilton Marsh, Warminster and Salisbury through co-ordinated activity with the railway, local communities and government bodies.

The TransWilts Community Rail Partnership (TWCRP) aims to achieve positive, sustainable and imaginative development of the TransWilts (Swindon to Salisbury) railway in ways which also benefit the places it serves, including enhancement of services to meet the current and future travel requirements of those places. It sees the line as an essential link for the local communities and businesses along the route, and as part of the projected strategic north – south rail link through an area experiencing major expansion. The TWCRP liaise with all interested parties to promote the social, economic and environmental prosperity of the local communities.

Aims and objectives

- To promote and enhance the use of rail services on the "TransWilts" line which connects Swindon to Salisbury via Chippenham, Melksham, Trowbridge, Westbury, Dilton Marsh, Warminster and Salisbury and other connecting transport services.
- To encourage and promote rail travel for all purposes, including progression of regeneration, tourism/leisure and community development projects.
- To create a forum to bring together the knowledge and aspirations of the local community with the skills and resources of the rail operator in order to produce an economically viable, welcoming and stable service.
- To enable local communities to increase their economic, social and environmental welfare by making use of the railway line.
- To develop the railway on a sustained basis for the medium- to long-term.

- To promote physical, informational, and environmental accessibility for all to the trains, stations and the places they serve.
- To develop new appropriate uses for stations and their buildings that provide new and improved facilities; thus make stations more user-friendly; and so encourage use of the train.
- To contribute to reducing traffic congestion, and improving road safety and air quality.
- To identify potential sources of funding and mechanisms to carry out projects aimed at achieving the above.

In all of its activities, the Partnership will follow the principles of equal access and equal opportunity to all, and will try to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities and those without access to private transport are considered.

The above aims and objectives can be changed at the Annual General Meeting or at specially-called Special General Meetings, with at least two thirds of the Partners present voting in favour of the change.

The partnership has no legal existence separate from the partners and that all contracts, including contracts of employment, will be made individually by the appropriate partner or partners. The partner designated as treasurer will hold any funds on behalf of the partnership and will provide an account of these to the satisfaction of the officers and members of the partnership at the AGM.

How are we structured

The Partnership may comprise of the following types of organisations (which will be known as Partners):

- Wiltshire Council
- Swindon Council
- Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Partnership
- Parish and town councils served by the line
- Train operating companies providing or proposing to provide services on any part of the line
- The owners, operators and maintainers of the rail infrastructure
- Local Rail user and development groups
- Local residents associations and interest and community groups.

- Local businesses
- Tourism organisations
- The Community Rail Partnership officer
- Other bodies and individuals that support the project

The Partnership shall meet at least once per year, at its Annual General Meeting. The AGM will normally be held between 1st January and 31st March.

The Partnership at the AGM will elect a Chairman, and a Treasurer from its membership. If there is no Community Rail Partnership officer, then a secretary shall also be elected; if there is a Community Rail Partnership Officer, then that person shall take the secretarial role. Other optional roles may be filled where necessary – Vice Chairman, President, Press and Publicity. The elected persons will form the steering group.

Only the AGM, or a Special General Meeting has the power to amend the constitution. One month's notice should be given in writing to the secretary or chair of any proposed amendments. An agenda (including any such notices) should be sent to all partnership members at least 2 weeks before the AGM.

A Special General Meeting will have all the powers of the AGM. If a special General meeting is called, the same notice period as an AGM is required. If a valid request for a special general meeting is made, it must be held within 2 months of the date of that request. A special general meeting will be called if:

- a) Any three members of the steering group
- b) Two thirds of the partners call for it

The Partnership may appoint a suitably qualified paid Community Rail Partnership Officer to lead the day-to-day functions of the Partnership.

Partnership Membership criteria

The TransWilts Community Rail Partnership is a non-party political organisation. Political parties are therefore not eligible for membership. Elected councillors and local government officers are eligible for membership as representatives of local authorities or other groups.

Membership of the Partnership is not limited to one particular representative per Partner, but it is desirable to have the same

representative regularly attending meetings.

Though the Partnership wishes to encourage local business development, it would be contrary to the spirit of the Partnership for one business to seek advantage over another through membership of the Partnership.

The Partnership welcomes donations, to enable it to do its general work efficiently or to further individual projects. The Partnership may charge a membership fee should the steering group so decide. At least 3 months notice will be given.

Media Relations

All external CRP communications with the media must be with the agreement of the press officer.

Winding up

A decision to suspend or disband the Partnership will be taken only at an AGM or a Special General Meeting. Unless decided otherwise at such a meeting, any assets remaining on dissolution will be allocated to another organisation or other organisations having as nearly as possible similar aims to or interests as the Partnership where no condition was placed on those assets which forbid this course of action.

Version Control

This is our draft constitution, version 0.9, dated 21st July 2013. Unless there are any "show stoppers", this will be formally approved at a special meeting on 31st August 2013.

We may be contacted by email – info@twcrp.org.uk You may find out more about us via our web site at <http://www.twcrp.org.uk> One of our team may be reached by phone on 0845 459 0153 Post may currently be sent to us care of 48, Spa Road, Melksham, SN12 7NY.

In the event of this information being changed, all supporters will be informed with as much notice as practical. In the normal run of events, changes will be discussed prior to being implemented at a meeting and will require either a majority in favour or 'vital cause' such as the postal address no longer being available to us.