



Press release

Wednesday 15 March 2017: For immediate release

Double boost for North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership

The North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership (NSCRP) has appointed a new Partnership Officer, and is also set to expand its work beyond the East Midlands Trains Crewe-Stoke-Derby route by joining forces with a second train operator.



Marika Latham has been appointed as its new Community Rail Partnership Officer. She will take up her duties on 20th March 2017.

Marika is no stranger to the Partnership as she has been one of the very successful team of station adopters at Uttoxeter, where she has also served as the Co-ordinator of the Uttoxeter & District Forum 50 plus Group.

Additional to Marika's appointment, NSCRP has also joined forces with London Midland, who are providing additional funding to the CRP meaning that community rail, the method of engaging communities to be part of their local railway, can be extended. Funding is already provided by train operator East Midlands Trains.

So the new post that Marika takes up will be unique in that, as well as half time work for NSCRP along the East Midlands Trains Stations between Derby and Crewe, she will be extending her role to other Staffordshire Stations, operated by London Midland.

Michael Willmot, Chair of North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership, said: "It's a great pleasure to welcome Marika to this new role in which I know she will be effective in supporting all of our station adopters and promoting ridership on the line. She will be able to spread best practice in community rail through working uniquely with two train operating companies, so ensuring passengers benefit from the very best in community rail and station adoption throughout a wider region."

Duncan Cale, Stakeholder and Community Rail Manager at East Midlands Trains, said: "The Community Rail Partnership between NSCRP and East Midlands Trains has been incredibly successful over the past few years, seeing wide ranging station improvements and customer numbers increase year on year. The positive community impact made by Station Adopters and our Station Support Team has been recognised as some of the best country. We are delighted to welcome Marika to the Partnership using her invaluable experience to ensure further success."

Faye Lambert, head of community rail at London Midland, said: "London Midland is proud and committed to working in partnership with local communities. We already have two very successful Community Rail Partnerships and we are keen to support more across our network. By getting together with North Staffordshire we will be able to bring more community involvement into improving Staffordshire stations, like the recent flagship station adoption project with Heart of Hednesford and the Innovative community arts installation at Stone Station."

For further information, contact Michael Willmot on mwillmot@talktalk.net or 01743 588654.

Notes for Editors:

Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs) are a means by which stakeholders along a rail corridor can play an active role in the development of their local rail service. The North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership joins local authorities, businesses and community groups with the aim of improving the North Staffordshire Line (Crewe-Stoke-Derby). Current partners and funders are East Midlands Trains; London Midland; Cheshire East Council; Derbyshire and Staffordshire County Councils; Stoke-on-Trent City Council; and the North Staffordshire Rail Promotion Group.

The Crewe-Stoke-Derby rail service is managed by East Midlands Trains. For further information visit www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk

Other Staffordshire stations involved in this scheme are managed by London Midland. For further information visit www.londonmidland.com