



REPORT FOR Councillor Zafar A Iqbal Birmingham City Council

October 2020

COMMUNITY RAIL ACTIVITY AT WEST MIDLANDS RAILWAY STATIONS WITHIN BIRMINGHAM

Beginning with our vision for neighbourhood regeneration that we hope becomes part of the effects of the community endeavours. Local Communities at all the stations make up the 'Friends Group' for the stations, these groups have Health & Safety Briefings and are provided with high viz protection wear and photo ID Cards. We work hard to secure grant funds to organise projects, and a local business sponsor is subsidising the landscaping and gardening supplies for the Line. (Earlwood Garden & Landscape Centre)

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES FRIENDS OF THE SHAKESPEARE LINE

By Shakespeare Line Promotion Group (SLPG Led by Fraser Pithie copied here)

West Midlands Railway:

We want our stations to become neighbourhood hubs

To be part of the town they serve,

To help with Covid recovery,

To provide services to local communities

And to contribute to making rail journeys more appealing and pleasant.

Hall Green

The station has long-standing adopters and the station is in a good condition. A secure mains water supply has been installed to assist with garden watering. The poetry display in the waiting room continues and is regularly reviewed and changed. A newly installed display board on the platform now also displays a selection of poetry for locals and passengers to appreciate.

Spring Road

The 260th Birmingham Scouts have adopted Spring Road station. A secure mains water supply has been installed to assist with garden watering. The adopters have passed their Health & Safety Briefing and are now active. Crocus Corms, donated by Birmingham Rotary, were planted week beginning 26 October. The Shakespeare Line Promotion Group (SLPG) and the Line Manager for West Midlands Trains met with adopters on 21 October and carried out a station survey to determine where planters can be fixed at the station. The survey has been submitted for approval with Earlwood Garden & Leisure Centre (EG&LC) providing & delivering the agreed items in due course. SLPG have raised with Network Rail the insecure nature of the platforms at southern ends - they currently enable access to the running lines and under the multi storey car park.

Tyseley

SLPG have engaged with Friends of Vintage Trains who have adopted Tyseley station. While there are plans for the station buildings at Tyseley SLPG have concentrated their actions on the station platforms. EG&LC and Birmingham Rotary International visited the station on 20 October and determined that work is needed to be done to restore a large brick planter. Two other planters are due to be recomposted imminently and these will have crocus corms planted shortly.

SLPG have raised the issue of passenger accessibility at Tyseley with WMRE. The road overbridge adjacent to the station is known to be in a poor and deteriorating condition and requires replacement. Network Rail are considering how this work can be done and the opportunity it may provide to incorporate simultaneous improvements for better station access.

Small Heath

SLPG have successfully attracted adopters for Small Heath station, local residents who have a vision for community regeneration in the neighbourhood. The overall condition of the station is poor and is need of significant improvement. There is a good opportunity to enhance the station through adoption as Platform 1 & 2 are currently derelict but could easily be tidied up and developed to accommodate heritage displays, planters and potentially street art.

There are significant accessibility issues at Small Heath, not least as a result of two flights of steep steps to access and egress the platform and train services. SLPG met the new adopters at Small Heath station on 23 October. As a result the above issues were raised and discussed with SLPG agreeing it would pursue the key stakeholders with a view to arranging a site meeting at the station once public health conditions permit. SLPG have commenced these discussions and is seeking to arrange a local meeting where appropriate officials and the local adopters can meet up, see and discuss the issues with a view to progressing and improving.



Fay Easton

Head of Stakeholder & Community

West Midlands Railway