

Cam Valley Community Rail Partnership Stakeholder Meeting

Melbourn Hub, 22nd January 2026 2pm

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Present:

- Susan van de Ven (SvdV) - CRP Chair
- Sarah Grove (SG) - CRP Project Officer
- Sarah Hatcher (SH) - CCC officer
- Peter Wakefield (PW) - Railfuture
- Roger James (RJ) - Meldreth Parish Council
- Kate Laugharne (KL) - Shepreth Parish Council
- Andrew Chillingsworth (AC) - GTR
- Colin Burcombe (CB) - Community Rail Network
- Alan Neville (AN) - Greater Anglia
- Emma Dyer (ED) - South Cambridgeshire District Council

Apologies received:

- Adam Bostanci (AB) - County Councillor for Melbourn and Bassingbourn/Meldreth Parish Council/Vice Chair of A10 cycle campaign
- Rachel Northfield - CBC Ltd
- Malcolm Watson - Great Shelford Parish Council
- Richard Williams - Whittlesford Parish Council
- Sallie Bates - Network Rail
- Martin Seiffarth - Network Rail
- Katie Thornburrow (KB) - Cambridge City Councillor, Chair of EWR Mainline Partnership Strategic Board, GCP Assembly Member

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (8th May 2026) are available on the [CRP Website](#).

3. Line Action Plan Update

Providing a Voice for the community

- *East West Rail (EWR)*. Through SCDC CRP continues to participate in regular working groups, including Active Travel, representing rail users.
- *Cambridge South* Opening put back to June 2026. CRP has input into FAQs, and will support an upcoming online information session for station villages.

- *Meldreth Road level crossing*. Opened a week early with a few teething problems in the first week. Credit due to Shepreth Parish Council for leading the conversation with Network Rail.

Promoting Healthy and Sustainable Travel

- *Railway 200 Inspiration Train*. Eastern-region CRPs gathered at Lowestoft to support the train visit.
- *Foxton Primary School* Children from Foxton Primary School and been taken on several school trips by train to Cambridge and Royston
- *Travelling Garden*. Shepreth was the first station to have the travelling garden bike, provided by Cambridge Sustainable food. The trug is now in situ in Shepreth on the old school field
- *Santa train*. A trip for many children took place before Christmas, SG accompanied the train twice between Ely and Peterborough.

Bringing communities together

- *Station link path* - wildflowers planted last summer provided a beautiful display for months. The project is continuing with a spring display of bulbs which have been provided for half price by Phillimores Garden Centre.
- *Wellbeing walkers* - raised £50 for Mind
- Volunteer Day in Meldreth, with gardening volunteers from Corteva, Melbourn Science Park.

Supporting Social and Economic development

- The website has been updated to reflect the new stations in the partnership.
- A new banner has also been created and also turned into a poster.
- An activity book has been produced for children travelling on the train inspired by other CRPs.
- Participated in a GTR sponsored initiative to create station posters. SG worked with artist Rose Hill on the posters which have also been turned into postcards.

Helping community Rail to flourish

SG has been involved in a number of events to promote Community Rail. These included:

- Attending a Parliamentary event with local MP, Pippa Heylings,
- Tourism network events including at Bedford and Marston Vale,
- 'Days out by Rail' run by the Community Rail network,
- Community Rail week
- White Ribbon event, including SG running a session at the Community Rail conference on keeping women and girls safe on the rail network. Other CRPs have developed initiatives off the back of the session.
- Photo taken at the Lowestoft event has been shortlisted for a Community Rail award.

Looking ahead - next 12 months

- *Railway 200* - the Inspiration Train is coming to Cambridge w/e 31/01. Funding from the Community Rail Network for giveaways. SG will be there with Network Rail and the Cambridge to Ipswich CRP. Timelines for stations - history of each of Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton stations to go up at stations through to 2026
- *Cambridge South* - working on launch with CBC, considering how to promote it and to who. An article will be going out in South Cambs magazine trailing opening of station.
- *Cam Valley Gateway* - £25k has been received from Rural England Prosperity to improve physical assets at stations, undertake a revamp of the website, new walking maps, cycle maps doing circular routes linking stations
- *Travelling with confidence* - A Community Rail initiative the CRP is taking part in. Aim is to help people with disabilities to travel with more confidence, talking to various disability groups, e.g. RNIB and Camsight
- *Biodiversity and Art* - working with Sallie Bates -to use £8k grant from company working on the resignalling project
- *Station Adopters* - Working with adopters, schools and uniform groups. Need to find some people to work with at Cambridge South and formalise arrangements at Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton stations.
- *Additional parishes* - Establishing relationships with additional parishes now in the partnership.
- *Onward travel* - Cambridge South - Greater Anglia are the facility owner for Cambridge South (as well as Shelford and Whittlesford.) They will be handed station 4-5 weeks before it opens. The Travel and Transport Board at CBC is working together to look at onward travel, want to develop not just wayfinding but onward travel provision.
- *Active Travel Survey* - to be undertaken at Meldreth to understand and bolster case for step free access to London platform.
- *All Saints Gardens development, Barrington*, will be connected to Foxton station by a path along old railway to cement works. The path won't be built until occupation reaches a certain threshold there.

4. Partner Updates

Community Rail Network

- Railways Bill making way through parliament, CRN is keeping an eye on this. An Accessibility Roadmap accompany it.
- DfT are becoming increasingly interested in CRPs demonstrating outcomes e.g. If Try a Train gets 50 children on a train, what does it do beyond that? what is the shift in culture? what new audiences did it reach? etc.
- As TOCs merge, standardisation is coming for example approaches to water butts etc.

- Regarding accreditation, CRN can help in advance.

TOCs

Greater Anglia

- Up to Swiss levels of reliability.
- Some big marketing campaigns have been running recently, such as the scheme to get people out of London and visiting towns and cities.
- West Anglia and GTR timetables were tweaked in December due to ECML changes. Regional and rural services eg Stansted to Norwich will be altered in May.
- There are now 330 station adopters on GA.

GTR

- At end of May, GTR will cease to be part of Go Via. AC will remain the contact and the four brands will remain GN, Thameslink etc.
- Community Choir event scheduled for 7 May.
- Cam Valley CRP has made an application to Your Station Your Community fund - a small bid for more bulbs and wildflower seeds.
- Meldreth tap - Andrew has put forward for GTR support.
- There is a lot of engineering work taking place in coming weeks between London and Peterborough and London and Hertford, check before you travel.

Parish Councils

Meldreth

- A neighbourhood plan is being prepared and will become a blueprint for the village and what development is wanted for it. Big potential projects will need signposting.
- Data will be central to making the case. Next six months information gathering. Particularly interested in how many people use the train

Shepreth

- A spur from the Meldreth Greenway is due to be built this year to promote active travel to station.
- Interested to hear what's happening to station building. AC gave SG a contact at GTR to follow up.

Railfuture

- Usage figures from ORR up to March 2025 have been received. Noted that Ashwell and Morden station footfall has increased past pre-COVID levels, notable as it has two trains an hour whereas other villages don't. Railfuture advocates a half hourly service to Cambridge all day for the other village stations, on both lines.

- From Kings Cross, the greatest volume of tickets bought is to Cambridge.
- Greater Anglia service much more reliable but capacity is more limited as there are only a few passing places.

5. Questions/Any Other Business

Meldreth Road Level Crossing

- Anecdotal evidence that people are having to arrive half an hour early to ensure that you can get through barriers.
- Signal box visit planned for early Feb.

Cambridge South/Guided Busway

- A question was raised about whether the Guided Busway timetable from Trumpington P&R will change prior to the new station opening.
- *Action: Consider a follow up meeting to collate potential questions people will be interested in when the stakeholder event takes place*
- SvdV suggested a small, focused meeting on Cambridge South wayfinding/onward travel. Info to be circulated

6. Date Of Next Meeting

AGM to be arranged for May 2026