



Working in partnership to deliver a railway with strong community involvement



Annual Report

2015

Introduction



A busy year with lots of activity during which our partner train company, Southern, moved into the country's biggest rail franchise, Govia Thameslink Railway. Our team of five staff and eight volunteer directors have been assisted by an army of volunteers from both national and local organisations and groups working across Kent, East and West Sussex, Surrey and Brighton. They have brought the number of station partnerships to nearly 50 across the Southern area and achieved innumerable developments along the 5 line partnerships, with a focus on working

with communities at stations and within local businesses and organisations, for the benefit of all. Examples of that work are included in this year's annual report.

The main partnership has been strengthened by the official inclusion of Surrey County Council so now all the transport authorities in our area are in the Partnership. They have been strongly supported by Gatwick Airport, the South Downs National Park Authority and this year joined by Brighton & Hove Buses making Sussex Community Rail Partnership (SCRIP) the first major community rail partnership to support the aim of helping communities enjoy door to door transport opportunities with a bus partner.

The Partnership is therefore moving forward as all good businesses do and our strong business plan is focused on further development through to 2022. It continues to demonstrate real partnership working and I am most grateful for the wonderful support that has been given by our partners, volunteers, directors and staff team.

Tim Sparrow

Partnership Chairman

Development

Business Travel

The Community Rail Partnership (CRP) has been working with a number of local business associations and platforms to support business in their decisions about travel for meetings and from site to site within their own business.

This work supports economic development by helping to reduce congestion, creating a more active and healthy workforce and by reducing some business travel costs.

There are plenty of examples of busy local business people who choose to use public transport for a variety of reasons, whether it be to allow them to work whilst they travel around Sussex and Surrey or because business mileage is being activity discouraged by their company for sustainable reasons. There is potential for many more people to do so but often a lack of knowledge or fear of looking uninformed can put people off.

Taking the idea of the rail education project to an adult audience allows the CRP to act as a sign post and informal go between. This role of helping the community to understand and engage with the rail industry is a long standing one for the CRP now adapted to working with the business community.

This work has led to the CRP focusing much more on projects which can assist business and the economy with travel advice and sign posting, business rail promotion and personal travel plans.

Sam Lear

Seaford Brighton Line



Active Communities

Making stations part of their local community.

Artwork along the Arun Valley is an important part of the SCRP's work and is provided by a variety of community projects and local schools. There are currently 3 mosaics made by the local communities of Bognor Regis for the 150th Anniversary celebrations and at Arundel in partnership with Arundel Museum, with the designs by a Barnham train driver. Schools have been working very hard, contributing artwork in the form of murals and posters which are displayed in many of our stations. One new project, "Poetry on the Line" adds to the interest, with poetry by St Philip Howard and Barnham Primary schools. The Aldingbourne Trust's Community Team, comprised of people with learning difficulties, creates and maintains the floral displays at over 30 stations, which provides them with work experience.

To further improve our stations and to encouraging sustainable transport for leisure and tourism, the CRP has produced a series of walking events along the Arun Valley, especially from the gateway stations, Arundel, Amberley and Pulborough, which have easy access to the South Downs National Park (SDNP). The installation of cycle storage at numerous stations further encourages sustainable travel.

One special event combined walking with using the train and a trip on a canal boat: walking from Ford station along the Arundel and Portsmouth canal to Barnham, hopping on the train from there to Chichester, where the group boarded a boat to ride along the Chichester Canal.

Veronica Payne
Arun Valley Line



Working with Young People

Edenbridge Town Underpass

As the result of station visits conducted with the Southern station management team and the line officer on the Tonbridge and Uckfield lines, an under developed underpass was earmarked for a community project, which allowed a number of local partners to come together to make a real difference at Edenbridge Town station. Partners including Southern, Network Rail, Kent County Council and ACoRP*, provided funding, time and agreement and got together with local young people to create an art project, which brought local graffiti art alive in the tunnel.

Having jumped at the chance of being involved in a positive, high profile activity in the town, the Edenbridge Youth Consortium worked with local artist Graham Upton, who was also up for the challenge. In just one week of intensive work, the artist led the young people through the necessary planning, design and installation and the end result was a bright and vibrant design, depicting local scenes, such as Hever Castle, and the local countryside all along the tunnel with a colourful station name tag. If you look up, you can even see stars!

At the end of the project a reception and official opening ceremony were hosted at the station and the ribbon was cut by the local mayor. The response from local residents, passengers and Southern has been 100% positive. Perhaps the best part is that projects like this prove that young people can and will give their time and attention to a worthwhile activity. The CRP values this input and seeks to engage young people whenever possible in community projects.

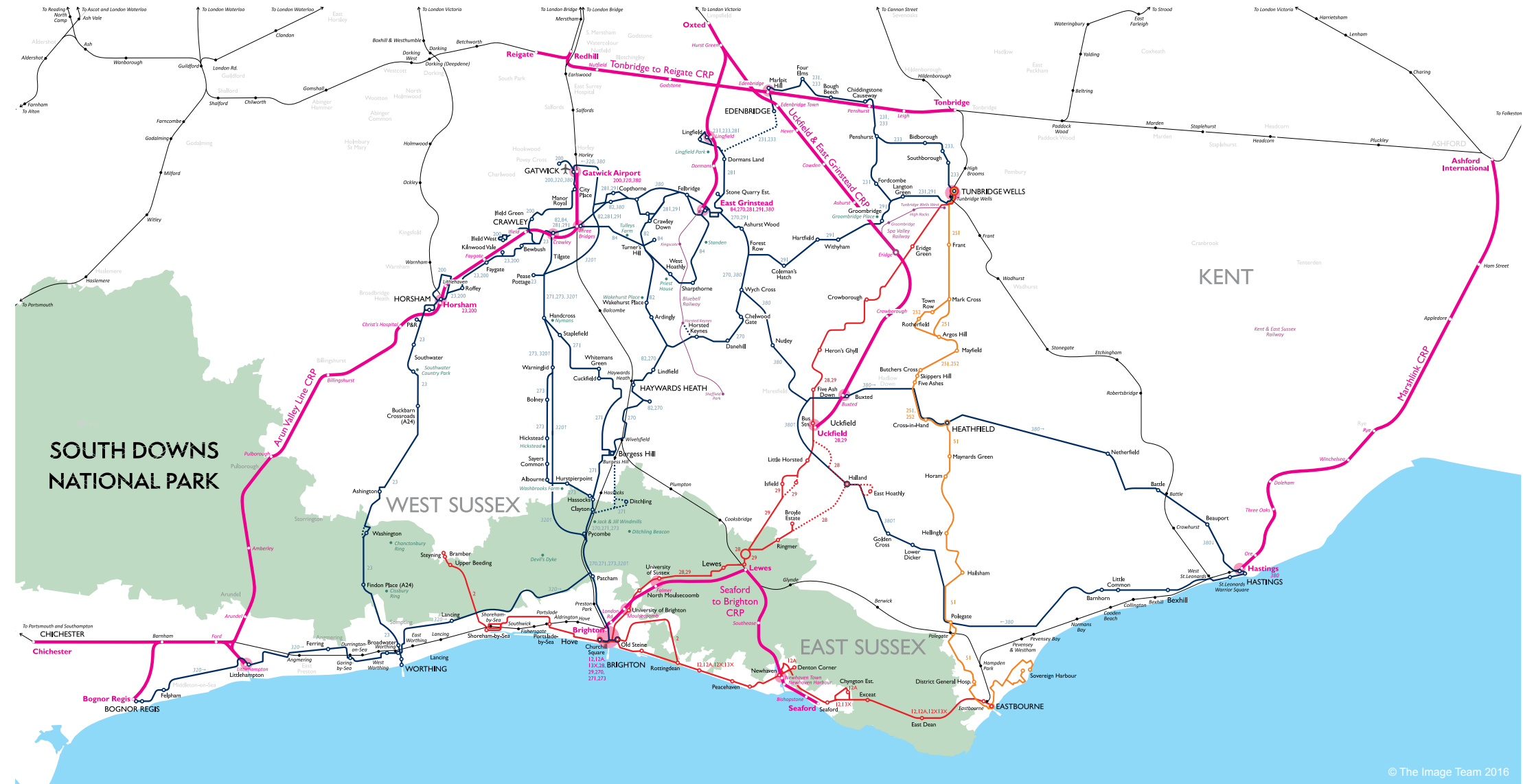
Sharon Gray
Uckfield and Tonbridge Lines



*ACoRP, Association of Community Rail Partnerships.

Community Rail Partnership connections in the South East area

- Community Rail Partnership station
- Railway station
- Preserved railway station
- Metrobus bus routes. Please note that routes 320 and 380 are very early morning journeys only.
- Brighton & Hove bus routes
- Stagecoach bus routes
- Interchange: Bus calls at or near to Community Rail Partnership Station
- Tourist attraction/Place of interest



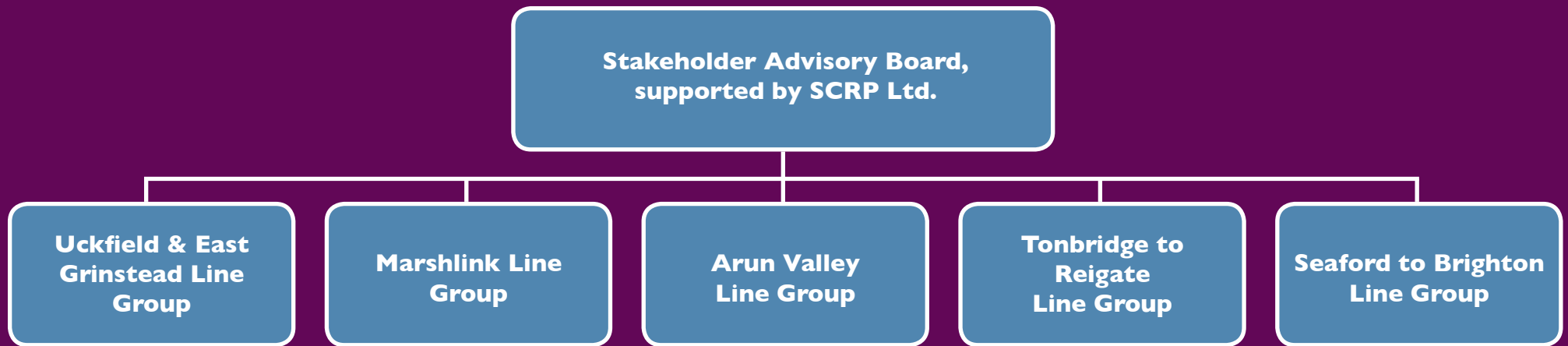
Financing The Work of The SCRP

The SCRP management and finances are looked after by the not for profit volunteer run company, SCRP Ltd. In 2014/15 income was just over £122,000, costs were almost £120,000 and the remaining money was carried over to cover ongoing projects in the coming year.

The main cost is staffing and managing the work of the line groups. Salaries, and the associated office, travel and line group meeting costs make up 80 % of our costs. Producing and distributing line guides and other communication activities cost 10 % and additional small grants and event costs make up the remaining 10 %.

The SCRP Ltd income is derived from across the Partnership with 46% from the train operating company, 46% from local authorities, and 8% from business and other organisations.





Structure of the Partnership

Sussex Community Rail Partnership is over a decade old and is managed by a volunteer team of Directors on the Board of SCRP Ltd. This not for profit company employs a small team of dedicated Officers who co-ordinate project work within their community areas. They have the support of the Stakeholder Advisory Board Partners, local community partners in the line groups and an active group of volunteers, particularly at the nearly 50 station partnerships, who roll their sleeves up and literally get stuck in to some transformative projects that have made a real difference to rail users and the surrounding community.

The high quality interactions between the line partnerships and the communities they serve, deliver brighter, more cared for looking station environments, a nicer travelling experience, reduced anti-social behaviour and the perception of a safer environment. More recently young people are being provided with skills that they can relate to real life, helping them become more confident and opening their minds (and those of their parents) to the importance of thinking about more sustainable travel choices.

However, as times change, so must the important work of the SCRP. It must actively embrace the opportunity to spread this valuable work across the wider area, help increase the connectivity of the rail network with the destinations that people

need to travel to and maximise the opportunity for people to make sustainable travel choices by improving the linkage between buses, cycling and walking. The Department for Transport was recently so impressed by the level of co-operation between rail and buses in Sussex that it plans to write this into future national Community Rail Partnership policy.

The SCRP also needs to expand its stakeholder relationships by not only engaging regularly with community groups and local authorities but also working with future multi-local authority devolution bids, regional economic partnerships, business improvement districts and local enterprise partnerships. It will enable the Partnership to help play a fuller part in generating economic growth and reducing traffic congestion across the wider regional area.

With the south east an ever more popular place to live, work and do business, we at the SCRP have ever more of an essential job to do so that people can move around in a sustainable way and accomplish their personal and business needs.

Patrick Warner
(Brighton and Hove Buses)
Director SCRP Ltd.

Working with Young People

Rail Education Package



Our work with young people is varied but one element is around education: using the railway for independent travel. This year saw the third and final year of the West Sussex County Council 'Your Travel, Your Future' project. It has focused on changing travel behaviour for one of the biggest and most car dominant journey generators - the journey to school. It concentrated on year 6 children in and around Chichester and Horsham.

The aim was to provide young people with the skills to plan journeys, purchase tickets, and use rail services safely and confidently. The workshops and other activities created a positive change in the general mode of travel to more sustainable travel types such as buses and trains. Without exception there was a positive increase in pupils' perceptions about rail travel. The workshops have made a real difference to what children understand about sustainable travel.

A full report of this project which was funded by LSTF can be found on the SCRP website. The work has also lead us to develop further projects around sustainable travel with the South Downs National Park Authority and the train company's Go Learn school programme. More about these will be in next year's review.

Angie Lowen

Education Officer



Active Communities

Captain Pugwash

Southern asked the CRP if it could improve a small piece of untouched land at Rye. It was decided it would be turned into a garden with a bench, which visitors to Rye and the local community could enjoy and be called the John Ryan garden, in honour of the artist and author of the children's books and TV series, "Captain Pugwash". John, until his death six years ago, lived in Rye.

The project began with clearing the area and when Network Rail heard of what was intended, it arranged for 24 volunteers to go to Rye one cloudy day to clear the site. The next step was the involvement of one of the station partners, Friary Gardeners, a charity for young adults with disabilities, to plant flowers, shrubs and two trees. The bench was donated by Southern and a plaque was placed on the bench dedicating the garden to John and the whole project received funding from ACoRP. The opening ceremony was a celebration event with children, music and cakes. Priscilla Ryan, wife of John, and his daughter, Isabel and the Mayor of Rye, performed the official opening. Other local VIPs, including Amber Rudd, MP, attended the ceremony.

The garden has proved to be extremely popular and prompted the exhibition of the Captain Pugwash paintings and story in Rye station. A lot of visitors to Rye were unaware that John Ryan lived there and it may lead to a "Blue Plaque" at the station for him and other famous people who lived in the area.

Kevin Barry

Marshlink Line





Keeping in Touch

We would like to hear from you and we are also very happy to provide more information so do please get in touch.

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YOUR LONDON AIRPORT
Gatwick



SCRP working in partnership with East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, Kent County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council, Surrey County Council, Hastings Borough Council, Southern Railway, Network Rail, Gatwick Airport, South Downs National Park Authority and local councils, community groups, tourist bodies and rail passenger support groups across South East England.

SCRP is very grateful to all those who have supplied photographs especially Southern Railway and the SCRП staff.

