



2017 Review

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

to connect communities with places and opportunities

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Review of 2017

What an exciting year of achievement: Sussex Community Rail Partnership (SCRCP) added 12 new station partnerships, allowing even more stations to benefit from planting, clean ups, exhibitions, murals and tourism signage. "Go Learn" educated over 5,000 young people on using the railway for independent travel and we started to reach an even wider age range through the "Active Access" project. Six more stations and their communities have begun to benefit from the new North Downs Line Partnership. This review gives more detail on these and the many other achievements we can all be proud of in 2017.

So many people to thank: Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) which runs Southern, Gatwick Express, Thameslink and Great Northern; Great Western Railway (GWR); all our other stakeholder partners, and the staff and volunteer directors of SCRCP Ltd. Most importantly, the army of volunteers from national and local groups to individuals, all of whom have contributed so much. A selection of their stories can be found [here](#).

But things do not stand still. On page 27 we look ahead to the opportunities presenting themselves in 2018. Catch up on developments by checking out our website and twitter feed.

Finally, if you are already a partner or volunteer, thank you again, but if you are not please consider contributing in whatever way you can. See page 26 to find out more.

Together, we look forward to another exciting year.

Patrick Warner

Chairman of the SCRCP Strategic Advisory Board



SCRCP'S OBJECTIVES FOR 2017

Our objectives put local communities at the heart of our work, connecting them with their railway. Everybody in the community is important to us, and we particularly focus on younger and older people, and disadvantaged and socially excluded members.

We believe that development of strong community interest in improving services and facilities results over time in the increased use of the railway by those communities and by visitors. We do this by working with a wide range of partners, helping them to achieve their objectives.

Our annual objectives are set as part of our long-term strategy, defined in our seven-year business plan (2015-2022). For 2017 our objectives were to:

- ▶ Increase community engagement
- ▶ Promote integrated and sustainable travel
- ▶ Deliver environmental enhancement
- ▶ Build on the success of the "Go Learn" education programme
- ▶ Introduce a new community rail line, the North Downs CRP
- ▶ Strengthen the Partnership structure and SCRCP Ltd.



PUTTING LOCAL
COMMUNITIES
AT THE HEART
OF OUR WORK

Amber Rudd MP lends support to the Marshlink Steering Group

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With 12 new station partners on board in 2017 there has been plenty of activity across the Partnership. Here are just some examples.

New station partnership at Falmer

Line Officer Catherine Simmons brought grounds staff and volunteers from Sussex University together with Southern's Station Manager, Lisa Stacey to make Falmer station blossom. They will replant well-used areas of the station with wild flowers, combining forces with Duncan Marshall, who has worked hard on his own gardening the platform verges for many years.

Falmer is home to Brighton & Hove Albion FC and Sussex University and Brighton University campuses, so the planting needs to be extremely hardy and resilient. Future plans include a mural for the footbridge over the line.



Lisa Stacey signs station partnership with Sussex University

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Blooming Ore station!

Ore station is undergoing a renaissance, starting with six large flower tubs on the platforms, made by Friary Gardeners, an organisation for adults with learning difficulties. The idea was the brainchild of local resident Trevor Davies of Ore Transport Group, supported by Line Officer Kevin Barry and Southern. Trevor explained, *"I have used Ore station for many years and now that I am retired, I want to help the local community to enjoy what we have. We'd like to open a community garden at the station and grow not just flowers but also vegetables which could be shared out."*

Local businesses have offered help and funding, and in Spring 2018, a Network Rail work party will build raised beds using old sleepers.



Trevor and Friary Gardeners volunteers ready for a day's digging

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bexhill station – Young at art

Bexhill Dementia Action Alliance has created an allotment for people with dementia and their carers. Bexhill Division Guides and Brownies have supported this group, growing flowers and vegetables, watering and weeding. At the end of the summer, they spent a day with Louise Kenward, local photographer and artist, drawing and taking photographs of their favourite areas of the allotment. Louise created huge prints of the photos to display at Bexhill station.



REACHING MORE LOCAL
RESIDENTS THROUGH
IN-DEPTH STATION
PARTNERSHIPS

Bexhill Brownies at the allotment

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Relationship with YMCA

The YMCA is a very active and high-profile partner for Redhill and several surrounding stations. Not only has a successful on-going relationship with Line Officer, Sharon Gray, resulted in brighter, more colourful stations displaying artwork, a photographic exhibition and platform planters, but its knowledge of the local voluntary sector is proving invaluable in bringing more groups into the Community Rail fold.

*YMCA, Earlswood Primary and County Care
get their hands dirty at Redhill station*



Also in 2017

- ▶ Brighter Uckfield wins Southern's Service Quality Award for station garden and artwork
- ▶ Aldingbourne Trust & Arundel Town Partnership plant new areas at Arundel
- ▶ Primary school partners increase to 14

TO ALL OUR
STATION PARTNERS
BOTH NEW AND
EXISTING – A
BIG THANK YOU.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Encouraging sustainable travel is a key objective. Here are some of the initiatives in 2017.

North Downs Line signage

In 2018 information boards will appear at all the stations between Guildford and Reigate, organised by Line Officer, David Daniels and designed by the North Downs Way and Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Funding is via grants from Natural England, Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Association of Community Rail Partnerships. Cyclists can follow the wheels of the 2012 Olympic cyclists from Dorking Deepdene up Box Hill and to the easily accessible North Downs Way.

PROMOTING HEALTHY
WALKS AND
SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORT



GWR train in the rolling North Downs countryside

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Amberley to Arundel walk through the South Downs National Park

A walk arranged by Sussex charity, Family Support Work, from Amberley Station to Arundel across the South Downs Way and over the Gurkha Bridge, attracted sixty people and quite a few dogs. Walkers could choose routes of varying lengths, with plenty of interest for families and children.

To encourage visitors to explore the area, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) in partnership with Line Officer Rowena Tyler, are installing map boards at gateway stations on the Arun Valley and Brighton to Seaford lines. The maps show bridleways and cycle paths and the distance and route to the next station.

'THE AMBERLEY BOARD
ATTRACTED ATTENTION
AS SOON AS IT WAS
INSTALLED, WITH
WALKERS KEEN TO
CHECK THEIR ROUTE
TO THE NEXT
STATION.'

Allison Thorpe, Strategy Lead
Access and Recreation SDNPA.

Walkers checking route at Amberley



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Spreading the word

During 2017 SCRP worked with the Association of Community Rail Partnerships to highlight our regions attractive destinations on their beautiful new website www.scenicrailbritain.com. Browsers will discover that SCRP's lines lead to walks in the rolling South Downs landscape and the gentler North Downs, to seaside fun at Brighton, Littlehampton and Hastings. Two of the country's best heritage railways are the Bluebell Railway and the Spa Valley Railway on SCRP's East Grinstead and Uckfield lines. Ease of access is emphasised with journey times making for a delightful half day or day trip out.

No chance was lost to promote local destinations through our individual line guides and over 10,000 were distributed through a range of SCRP events and partner outlets.



Brighton-Seaford line features in Scenic Rail Britain website



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Horsham DC – “Time well spent”

Horsham District Council, SCRP and Southern agreed to work together to promote the District's new Tourism and Economic Strategy along the seven stations within Horsham District. The first project features Southern and Metrobus in a film made by Horsham District Council, as part of the 'Time Well Spent' promotion, encouraging people to visit the Christmas ice rink at Horsham.

Also in 2017

- ▶ Promoted and funded walks by train to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and the famed Winchelsea Cellars and Pevensey Castle
- ▶ Arranged free parking at Uckfield station for visitors to the town carnival
- ▶ Promoted discounted train travel to new students at Freshers' Fairs at Sussex and Brighton Universities
- ▶ Promoted Sussex destinations at London Blackfriars station with SDNPA during Community Rail in the City.

“We value the excellent work that SCRP undertakes in promoting rail travel amongst the local community and visitors to the area, encouraging rail travel as a sustainable alternative to the car. This includes producing attractive line guides, organising innovative events to mark the history of the lines, as well as the regular hosting of walks to help visitors explore the beauty and character of West Sussex.”

Jamie Dallen, Planning and Transport Policy Planner, West Sussex County Council

IMPROVING OUR STATIONS

Each in their own way communities have been making invaluable contributions to improving the appearance of stations. Here are a few of them.

Newhaven Town clean-up

A neglected strip of land by Newhaven Town station approach was cleared up thanks to local gardening business, Burley's. Litter and waste from Newhaven Port lorry park had built up and the area was heavily overgrown, an eyesore for commuters and visitors. After a local councillor's visit, permission was quickly granted, and the Port Authority contributed a skip. Burley's moved in with a digger and cleared the site, and will maintain the grassed area as a community contribution.

BRINGING PEOPLE
TOGETHER TO
TACKLE
PROBLEMS
AROUND
STATIONS



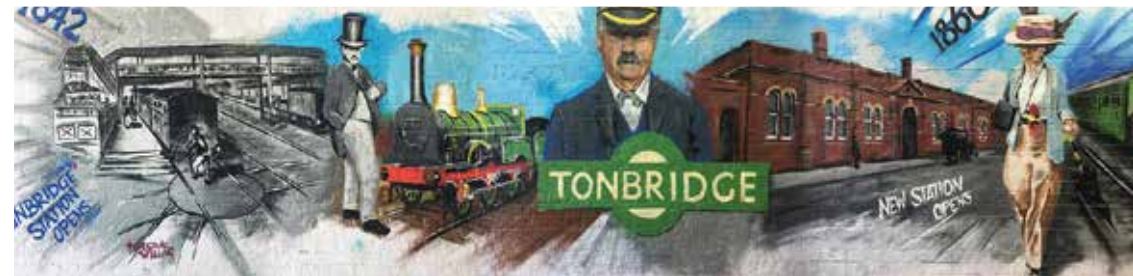
Burley's team with Southern and Newhaven Port Authority

IMPROVING OUR STATIONS

Tonbridge underpass artwork

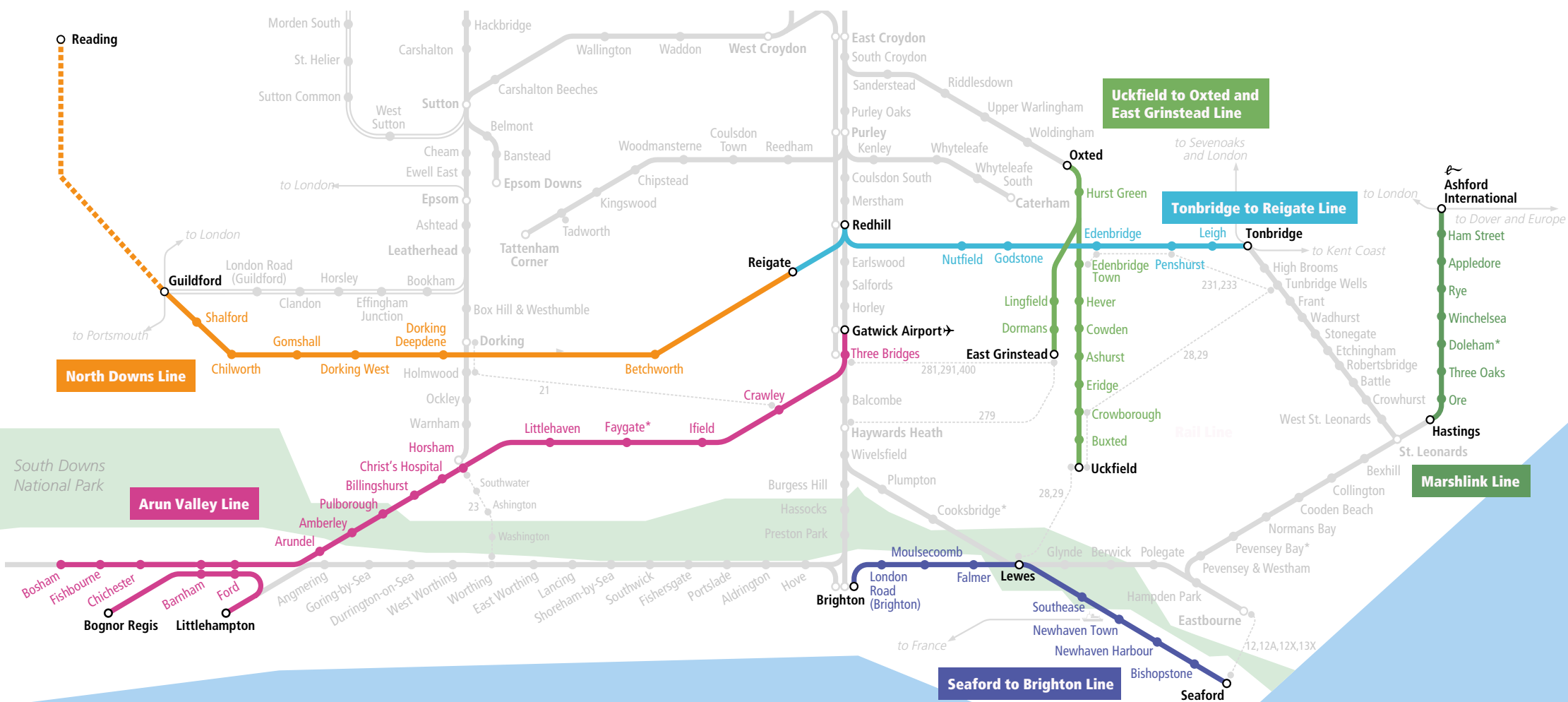
Southeastern's Station Manager at Tonbridge station asked Line Officer, Sharon Gray if SCRIP could transform the plain underpass that leads to the car park. She wanted the project to involve the local community, and Tonbridge Youth Hub accepted the challenge. Working with artist, Graham Upton, the team spent many exhausting hours creating a spray-paint mural. One wall depicts the history of the station with images of past station masters, the station building and historic trains, the other some of Tonbridge's landmark buildings.

At the official ribbon-cutting opening ceremony, the young artists and their families, local press and station staff were joined in their celebrations by the Mayor and Southeastern's Passenger Services Director. The project was later shortlisted for an Association of Community Rail Partnerships award.



The finished underpass mural with scenes of station history

SUSSEX COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP LINES



For more information

Metrobus routes: www.metrobus.co.uk/area-maps

Brighton & Hove buses: www.buses.co.uk

Trains: www.networkrail.co.uk

What to see and do: www.sussexcrp.org/discover-the-lines

IMPROVING OUR STATIONS

Volunteer work parties

In October, East Grinstead station welcomed a team of volunteers from the Department for Transport. Twenty people, including local volunteers and Southern staff, helped SCRP's station partner, Andrew Morris, tidy and prepare the station's extensive flower beds for the coming winter. The volunteers worked tirelessly in the fresh sunshine, weeding, chopping, digging, sweeping and filling endless rubbish sacks.

Corporate volunteering days really benefit Community Rail, as a willing team can achieve much in a few hours. Employees develop team building and communication skills, while having fun and making a real difference to a community.



Department for Transport work party at East Grinstead

TEAM BUILDING
AND MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

IMPROVING OUR STATIONS

Canterbury Oast Trust, station partner at Rye

Canterbury Oast Trust is a charitable organisation for young adults with learning difficulties. The Trust grows its own plants and sells them at its base near Ham Street station. A small group showed off their skills at Ashford and Rye stations, planting flowers in the tubs and making hanging baskets for the entrance and platforms. They will now maintain the flowers as station partners.



Trust volunteers with a newly planted tub at Rye

WORK EXPERIENCE AND
VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Also in 2017

- ▶ Butterfly-themed artwork at Littlehampton station by Chatsmore Catholic High School
- ▶ New artwork in waiting areas at Crowborough and Hurst Green
- ▶ New wooden planters for Oxted

PROMOTING INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Go Learn

GTR's Go Learn project helps Year 6 children (age 10-11) develop confidence and skills for independent travel on public transport. Angie Lowen, SCRP's Community Education Officer, delivers three Go Learn modules:

1. Safety on the railways

At the indoor Safety in Action and Junior Citizen events, Southern's Rail Enforcement Officers deliver Rail Safety sessions using a floor mat depicting the layout of the platform and tracks at a station.



Rail Enforcement Officers give safety talk at Crawley Junior Citizen event

2. Classroom workshop

Delivered by Angie - planning journeys using maps and timetables

3. Station visit and train ride

This year, World War II evacuation train rides for three schools added an extra dimension to the station visits, actively contributing to the delivery of the school curriculum.



Learning to read a timetable

'I THOUGHT IT WAS GREAT. REALLY. REALLY USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE. GREAT RESOURCES.'

Faye Stansfield Leader Year 6 Maidenbower Junior school Nov 2017

PROMOTING INDEPENDENT TRAVEL



Numbers participating in Go Learn are increasing year on year. In the 9 months from April-December 2017, over 5,400 children received Safety in Action or Junior Citizen training; over 700 children had classroom workshops; and 11 station visits were carried out with 339 children. The total number of children receiving the training was 6,472, already up 13% on the year from April 2016-March 2017.



Arunside Primary on WW2 evacuation train trip

More importantly, more children receive all three Go Learn modules, reinforcing learning and experience. This year, for the first time, all three Go Learn modules were delivered to Palatine Primary, a Special Needs school in Worthing. The format was different as Angie took the Go Learn floor-mat into the classroom for the children to learn about track safety, while also delivering the workshop. This was followed by a station visit at Worthing and train ride for the children, which was particularly successful thanks to the Southern team, who took the children behind the scenes in the platform office.

Go Learn annual reports are on the SCRP website at www.sussexcrp.org/what-we-do/education/go-learn

'CAN I JUST SAY A MASSIVE THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT IN RUNNING THE EVACUATION TRAIN RIDE. I KNOW THE CHILDREN LOVED IT (ONE EVEN THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE SLEEPING ON THE TRAIN!!)'

Tracy Groves, Year 6 leader at Milton Mount Primary, Crawley Nov 2017

PROMOTING INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Partnership with County Care

County Care support young adults with learning disabilities, autism and mental health issues, who are out of education, unable to work due to their condition but still need occupation and fulfilment. Funding cuts in personal allowances have put pressure on the Group's ability to provide 'paid for' activities, so a volunteering programme helped both the group and SCRP. The group has partnered Redhill and other stations with gardening projects and was highly commended by the In Bloom competition.

County Care helped to develop Southern's Communication Guide and Travel Support Cards for people with disabilities, giving Southern invaluable feedback on issues that present a barrier to independent travel.



County Care group visit Buckingham Palace

PROMOTING INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Try A Train: outings for groups with accessibility needs

These outings help disadvantaged groups and carers gain confidence in train travel. The trips include an introduction to station layout and ticketing options, meeting the station manager and teams, and 'try a train' to an enjoyable destination.

In 2017 SCRP organised and accompanied trips for young adults with autism, children with special educational needs, and recently arrived Syrian refugees who needed to gain confidence in accessing the train for work and schools.

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Active Access for Growth Project



Talking to commuters at Eastbourne station about active travel

SCRP is a delivery partner on this programme to encourage people to travel more sustainably and focuses on schools, colleges, further/higher education establishments and other training providers. Rail Education Officer, Catherine Simmons attended events to promote discounted rail travel at schools and universities and leisure travel at stations, and engaged with special needs groups. The next step is to book some workshops and 'Try a Train' for young people experiencing barriers to independent travel.

'WE RECOGNISE THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION THAT SCRP MAKES TO HELP REALISE OUR OBJECTIVES OF REDUCING RELIANCE ON THE PRIVATE CAR AND ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO TRAVEL MORE SUSTAINABLY.'

*Tessa Sweet Escott,
Principal Transport
Policy Officer, ESCC*

NORTH DOWNS LINE COMES ON BOARD

Launched in July 2017

SCRP is delighted to be working in partnership with Great Western Railway (GWR) to create a new Community Rail Partnership for the line between Reigate and Guildford. The North Downs CRP was launched at Denbies Wine Estate in July 2017, and the first Steering Group meeting took place in October under the chairmanship of Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Surrey County Council (SCC).

Already action is under way to design information boards and maps for each station; to refurbish Chilworth level crossing; to carry out a feasibility study into level crossing improvements to enable a more frequent train service; and to set up station partnerships.

The Partnership is pleased to have the support of Gatwick Airport Ltd, MetroBus, SCC, Guildford Borough Council, Mole Valley District Council, Surrey University, Royal Surrey Hospital, Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, North Downs Way, and parish councils along the line. In 2018, SCRCP will work with GWR and South Western Railway to extend the new CRP as far as Reading.



Key stakeholders at the launch of the North Downs Line in July 2017

STRENGTHENING THE SCRCP LTD TEAM

This year we strengthened our organisation. We welcomed Rowena Tyler, David Daniels and Catherine Simmons as Line Officers for the Arun Valley, North Downs and Seaford to Brighton lines. Catherine will also lead the Active Access project as Rail Education Officer.

SCRCP Ltd's Manager, Kirsten Firth, now has a full-time focus on development. Together with existing experienced Line Officers, Sharon Gray, Kevin Barry and Community Education Officer, Angie Lowen, we have a strong team taking the organisation forward, maintaining a strong focus on our existing line groups whilst developing the North Downs Line and the Active Access project.



Brighton Uckfield volunteers cleared rubbish including a garden chair

Financing the work of SCRCP

SCRCP management and finances are looked after by the not-for-profit company SCRCP Ltd. In 2016-17 income was £138,000 and costs £131,000. The small balance was carried forward to 2017-18 to fund ongoing projects.

Income was derived from across the Partnership with 74% from the Train Operating Company, 10% from Gatwick Airport, and the balance from local authorities, businesses and other organisations. Salaries and associated office, travel and line group meeting costs make up 75% of costs, with communication and event activity accounting for much of the remainder.

Expenditure will increase in 2017-18 following the launch of the North Downs CRP and the Active Access for Growth project, but will be matched by income from supporting partners.

STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

SCRP is directed by the Partners on its Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB) and is managed by a volunteer team of Directors on the Board of SCRП Ltd. This not for profit company employs a small team of dedicated officers who co-ordinate project work within their community area.

New members for the Stakeholder Advisory Board

This year the SAB was pleased to welcome two new members onto the Board: Great Western Railway and Coast 2 Capital Local Enterprise Partnership. The SAB meets twice a year and represents an opportunity to update members on developments, to seek guidance on future strategy and to hear guest speakers from within and outside the Partnership.

More partners for the line Steering Groups

SCRP now has six Community Rail Lines and even more members as the number of station partnerships has grown. Each line has a dedicated Community Rail Officer who arranges four steering group meetings a year. Each meeting is an opportunity to monitor progress on the annual action plan, to interact with industry representatives and to recognise volunteer contributions.

"WE THANK SCRП FOR FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS AT OUR STATIONS"

*Andy Harrowell,
Corporate Social Responsibility Manager,
Govia Thameslink Railway Ltd*

STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE



Volunteer Stuart Searle receives award from Amber Rudd MP

Once a year, the wider community hears about the work of each line partnership at their respective Stakeholder meetings. At the Marshlink stakeholder meeting in November, Hastings & Rye MP, Amber Rudd presented local resident Stuart Searle with a certificate, in recognition of his generosity in lending his extensive collection of railway memorabilia for exhibitions at Rye station.

"SCRП OFFERS A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE RAIL INDUSTRY, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TOGETHER TO DISCUSS IDEAS FOR IMPROVING RAIL SERVICES AND FACILITIES AT STATIONS."

*Jamie Dallen, Planning and Transport Policy Planner,
West Sussex County Council*

BE PART OF THE FUTURE

Whether you are a group of people, an institution, a business or an individual, we offer a range of opportunities for getting involved. We would like to hear from you, so do please get in touch.

Sussex Community Rail Partnership

Lewes Station, Station Road, Lewes BN7 2UP

www.sussexcrp.org  [@SussexCRP](https://twitter.com/SussexCRP)

SCRP Ltd

The Old Rectory, Litlington, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 9RB

Registered in England No. 6731176

Manager

[Kirsten Firth](#)

kirsten@sussexcrp.org

07891 556897

Seaford-Brighton Line Officer

[Catherine Simmons](#)

catherine@sussexcrp.org

07375 531987

Arun Valley Line Officer

[Rowena Tyler](#)

rowena@sussexcrp.org

07944 289269

Uckfield-East Grinstead and
Tonbridge-Redhill/Reigate Line Officer

[Sharon Gray](#)

sharon@sussexcrp.org

07944 628933

Marshlink Line Officer

[Kevin Barry](#)

kevin@sussexcrp.org

07949 314233

Education Officer

[Angie Lowen](#)

angie@sussexcrp.org

07852 221274

North Downs CRP Line Officer

[David Daniels](#)

david@sussexcrp.org

07503 154402

LOOKING AHEAD

Rail services transform through 2018

We are entering a period of exciting change:

- ▶ The introduction of new Thameslink routes from Sussex to Cambridge, Peterborough and Bedford
- ▶ The biggest change to the Southern Rail timetable since privatisation.
- ▶ The re-tender for the Southeastern franchise.
- ▶ The Department for Transport Community Rail Strategy consultation.

These are just some of the developments ahead. We look forward to working with our partners and GTR to smooth the introduction of the new service pattern. We will make sure that local community positions on issues are made clear, such as the level of investment and service delivery on the Marshlink and the potential for more through services from Kent to Sussex and Surrey along the Tonbridge to Redhill line.

And so much more...

Our website and our popular range of Line Guides will be updated and relaunched; station travel plans will be developed; the Rail Education Officers will reach even more people and our Line Officers, working with our station partners and volunteers, will deliver even more improvements for communities.



Lewes station garden with summer planting

'KENT COUNTY COUNCIL CONTINUES TO SUPPORT SCRPS MARSHLINK AND TONBRIDGE-REDHILL LINE GROUPS... AND WELCOMES THE ASPIRATIONS FOR AN EXTENSION OF HIGH SPEED SERVICES TO HASTINGS AND BEYOND. AND AN EVENTUAL EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING READING - GATWICK SERVICE AS FAR AS KENT.'

*Stephen Gasche,
Principal Transport Planner – Rail,
Kent County Council*

SCRP WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



SCRP also works in partnership with 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 and SCRП staff.

Produced by SCRП Ltd - February 2018. Designed by Hastings Borough Council