



### SCRP CIC Chair's report to SAB meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The SAB last met formally in January 2025 with the summer meeting taking the form of the Railway 200 fair held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 at Lewes Town Hall.

The SCRCP was re-accredited following the formal interview process held on 20<sup>th</sup> August. Our thanks go to the partners who attended the interview and supported us through this process. We do have four actions arising as follows: -

**Action 1:** Widen participation and diversity in newer lines, especially Reading – Windsor and Hounslow – Richmond CRPs **by: August 2026**

**Action 2:** Recruitment of new Chairs / Vice-Chairs as appropriate **by: August 2026**

**Action 3:** Create a dedicated web page for the Hounslow to Richmond Line on the SCRCP website **Completed: August 2025**

**Action 4:** There were varying opinions on the style, content, and frequency of the CRP weekly update; this is under review by the CRP **By: August 2026**

In October 2025, the SCRCP CIC held its AGM when the annual accounts for 2024/25 were approved for submission to Companies House alongside our SCRCP CIC statement.

Current key areas for the Board is setting a budget for 206/27 which is likely to be challenging as the indications are there will be no increase in core funding, the development of the actions plans for 206/27, a review of the SCRCP business plan, the risks associated with the formation of GBR, introduction of education into the national curriculum, the need to gain additional community representation on several of our GTR based Community Line Steering Groups and to complete the accreditation actions.

The SCRCP hopes its SAB partners will be able to assist and support the relevant Line Steering Groups where either Chairs or Vice Chairs are required to be appointed and increase community representation on our steering groups.

CRN have announced the shortlisted projects for the national community rail awards being held on 19<sup>th</sup> March and the SCRCP is very pleased that all the efforts of our officers, community groups and partners have been recognized, and we wish all the projects every success at the awards ceremony. The short list is summarised below:

- Empowering Diverse Groups – Travel Ambassadors with Optalis
- Best Community Engagement Project – Regs Garden & Station House (North Downs Line)
- Small Projects Award – Community Rail Model Railway Box End Green (Marshlink)
- Tourism and Leisure Award – Arun Valley Podcast
- Most Effective Communications Campaign - SCRCP Annual Review
- Railway 200 Legacy Award – SCRCP 200 Blue Plaques, Past, Present & Future



## Southeast Communities Rail Partnership CIC



In addition, station projects supported by SCRP were also shortlisted for awards. They are:

- Involving Children & Young People Friends of Ore Station
- Community Creative Projects & Station Arts - Small Groups Wokingham CLASP / Optalis, Greening Arundel, Friends of Bishopstone Station
- It's Your Station – Friends of Ore Station Silver Award, Greening Arundel Gold Award
- Friends of Bishopstone are also shortlisted for the Railway 200 Legacy award for small projects.

2025 has been a bumper year for awards for the SCRP. The SCRP have received awards from Community Action and Friends of Bishopstone Station (FOBS) have received the King's Award for Voluntary Service. The SCRP was delighted that our volunteer director Tim Sparrow was awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours List, richly deserved for all his wide-ranging community rail work over the last 20 years or so.

Our weekly updates have kept partners informed of staff changes during the last few months but to recap: -

Anna Stearman joined the team on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 as Line Officer for the Hounslow/Richmond Line.

Michael Olden has moved to become the Line Officer for Sussex Downs.

We have welcomed back Sam Lear who has taken on the role of our Communications Officer with Paul Bromley now focusing on his Line Officer role on the Marshlink Line.

Sam is also covering both the Uckfield/East Grinstead/Oxted and Tonbridge/Redhill/Reigate Lines as Line Officer in the absence of Sharon.

On behalf of the staff and directors I would like to take this opportunity to thank all partners for your continued support. This support is vital and key in helping us deliver a wide range of projects and activities to the communities we serve.

Tim Barkley Chair SCRP CIC

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

**Southeast Communities Rail Partnership CIC. A Community Interest Company Registered in England No. 6731176**

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