

COMMUNITY RAILWAYS

Community Rail is a Department for Transport initiative, and has four basic principles:

- Increase patronage, revenue, and if appropriate, freight use
- Involve local communities
- Reduce operating costs
- Enable local rail to play a greater part in economic and social regeneration

More information about Community Rail can be found on the following websites:

The DfT at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/strategyfinance/strategy/community/>

The Network Rail website at <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/asp/983.aspx>

The Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP)

ACoRP is a federation of Community Rail Partnerships, with over 60 members nationally. Their website at www.acorp.uk.com gives full details of who they are and their activities.

COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIPS IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

There are three community rail lines in North Yorkshire, each is supported by a very active Community Rail Partnership, and the County Council is represented on the management committee of each of them. In addition, the Settle & Carlisle Railway Development Company acts in exactly the same way as a community railway. They are:

The Esk Valley Railway Development Company (EVRDC)

The line between Whitby and Middlesbrough is particularly scenic, and the EVRDC is extremely active to ensure that the principles of community rail operation are being met. More information about the line can be found on the EVRDC website at www.eskvalleyrailway.co.uk

The Leeds – Lancaster – Morecambe Community Rail Partnership (LLM CRP)

The line between Leeds, Skipton, Lancaster and Morecambe is one of the lowest altitude lines across the Pennines. The beautiful scenery is typical of the Yorkshire Dales and rural Lancashire, and well worth a visit. The website can be found at www.llmr.co.uk

The Yorkshire Coast Community Rail Partnership (YCCRP)

This line runs from Scarborough and Filey through the eastern part of the Yorkshire Wolds to Bridlington, Driffeld, Beverley and Hull. The YCCRP has been particularly successful in attracting additional patronage, and this trend looks set to continue. The YCCRP has a website at www.yorkshirecoastline.co.uk

The Settle & Carlisle Railway Development Company (S&CRDC)

Following a proposal to close the line in the 1980s, this route is now one of the country's most picturesque and popular in the country, attracting thousands of tourists, walkers and other visitors annually. This success is the result of the tireless work put in by members of the Development Company, who work hard generating patronage and involving local communities. The line is also one of the country's primary freight routes, and is part of the Trans European Network. The S&CRDC website is at www.settle-carlisle.co.uk