

Request for Grant Aid

It has become traditional at this time of the year for Kent Community Rail Partnership (Kent CRP) to write as you set your precept for next year to give consideration to contributing funds towards our work. Kent CRP relies on contributions so if your Council in these stringent times could make a donation, this would help us enormously to continue with the work we are involved in.

Due to Covid restrictions much of our work this year has needed to be actioned in new ways, we were no longer able to undertake train travel training or events due to social distancing etc. however, we have been busy - this year Kent CRP has:

- Organised itself to be able to hold meetings and events on Zoom, Teams and Skype.
- Held 2 Zoom quizzes and 4 on-line book clubs to encourage engagement with communities and assist with reducing loneliness and social isolation. The book clubs include 6 weekly emails and a Zoom book club meeting, the books are rail related and stimulate rail related emails and discussions at the book club meeting. These will continue for the foreseeable future and in addition a film club is being launched this month – if you wish to join please contact me. gary.outram@sustrans.org.uk
- We are still running our very successful young person's programmes working mainly with 16-19 year olds from Sheppey College on the Isle of Sheppey and Five Acre Wood, Snodland. Last year Five Acre Wood adopted Snodland station and Sheppey College adopted the 5 stations on the Swale Rail Line. The students are continuing their work to improve the stations with gardening, construction (seating and planters) and information/poster boards etc. Adopted stations are often safer places as they experience reduced vandalism and anti-social behaviour. If you have not already considered adopting your local station, we would be happy to come along to a meeting and explain this opportunity further.
- A project has been undertaken to lay cycle rails along the steps of all platform bridges to allow for cyclists to roll their cycles up the steps to prevent the need for carrying them. This project is being undertaken at all stations that require the carrying of cycles to reach all platforms and is aimed to increase the numbers cycling to stations.
- We have been nominated for 3 awards in the annual national Community Rail Network awards – results to be announced on 9 Dec; Category 1 - Involving children and young people: Sheppey College Project, Category 4 – Most Enhanced Station: Five Acre Wood and Grow 19 Project for Snodland Station and Cat 10 - Kent CRP Photo captions: Santa's helpers – "So much more reliable than my usual transportation!"
- We are delighted to announce that through a competitive bidding process Southeastern awarded us another railway line in July. Our new line is Ashford to Otford consisting of 12 stations and as a result have been awarded funding to recruit another part time officer. A Line Partnership group is in the process of being established, all stations have been audited for improvements and station adoptions are being sought – a very challenging and exciting time for the new line. If you'd like to join this new Partnership group please contact therese.hammond@sustrans.org.uk
- A great deal of work has been undertaken to improve our website, including some details of the history of our 31 stations. Pages have been updated to show information on each station, places of interest to visit or picturesque cycle rides or walks to help visitors explore from the station. The focus has been on promoting sustainable and healthy travel and to help support social and economic development. Check out the updates here: <http://kentcrp.org/>
- Kent CRP produces 4 newsletters a year, has a continuously updated Website and is active on Facebook, Twitter and new for this year Instagram reaching ever increasing numbers.

- Kent CRP works with Councils to provide a voice for the community, contributing ideas for local plans.

I hope that your Council is able to contribute, as even a small amount will enable Kent CRP's successful record of achievements to continue. Payments can be paid by BACS or cheque.

Preferably use BACS to transfer a credit:

Bank name: Lloyds

a/c name: Sustrans Ltd

a/c number: 80888368

sort code 30-62-96

- The reference on the bank is the payee name (which ever account it debits)

Once transfer has been made please email finance@sustrans.org.uk and copy in gary.outram@sustrans.org.uk to confirm the transaction detailing project code KCRP 10702. It is important that the e-mail confirmation reaches us, so that the payee and account can be identified correctly.

If BACs transfer is not possible please make cheques payable to Sustrans and post to:

Gary Outram

19 Ash Crescent

Higham

Rochester

Kent

ME3 7BA

I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Fribbins

Chair of Kent CRP