Cam Valley CRP Partnership Meeting Minutes

Date: 15 October 2026

Item 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Attendees

- Susan van de Ven (Chair)
- Sarah Grove (CRP Project Officer)
- Cllr Adam Bostanci (Cambridgeshire County Council)
- Cllr Brian Milnes (South Cambs District Council)
- Emma Dyer (South Cambs District Council)
- Colin Burcombe (Community Rail Network)
- Alan Neville (Greater Anglia)
- Sallie Bates (Network Rail)
- Roger James (Meldreth Parish Council)
- Jim Rickard (Great Shelford Parish Council)
- Peter Wakefield (Railfuture)
- Brian Clarkstone (CIC)

Apologies

- Malcolm Watson (Shelford Parish Council)
- Andrew Chillingsworth (GTR)
- Bev Cottrell (MMSF CIC)
- Abi Williams (Melbourn Parish Council)
- Cllr Sally Ann Hart (South Cambs District Council)
- Kate Laugharne (Shepreth Parish Council)

Item 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

- Foot/cycle path under the Addenbrooke's Road bridge has been reinstated.
- Network Rail intends to reposition the axle counter at Shelford Station by the end of October.
- There is still a question mark over whether the repair the damaged cable serving the ticket machine and passenger information screen at Shelford Station can be made during the same possession.
- Continuing concerns regarding cycle thefts at Meldreth station and cycle theft and vehicle vandalism at Shepreth station. These issues are considered a significant priority.

Item 3. CRP Officer Project Update

Biodiversity and Station Improvements

- Biodiversity improvement project delivered at Meldreth and Shepreth Stations with support from Alstom and Network Rail volunteers.
- Biodiversity enhancement day planned at Audley End on 22 October.
- Community bulb planting event on the Meldreth-Melbourn Link Path scheduled for 11 December.

Travel with Confidence Project

- Community Rail Network-funded programme focused on Cambridge South now underway. Engagement started with disability organisations, healthcare partners, colleges and community groups.

Try the Train

- Successful supported rail trip undertaken with Hope Active to Ely, demonstrating effective accessibility support from Greater Anglia.

Shepreth Station Building

- Strategic Outline Business Case completed for community reuse of the former Shepreth Station building and submitted to Network Rail and The Arch Company.

Shelford Station Platform 2 Shelter

- Feasibility work on a new shelter at Shelford Station concluded that installation costs are currently prohibitive.

Shelford and Whittlesford Parkway History Boards

- Significant progress on Shelford and Whittlesford Parkway history boards. Additional archive material sourced from Cambridge Collection, local historians and station adopters.

Cam Valley Gateway and sustainable tourism

- Walking and cycling maps completed and uploaded to the Cam Valley Gateway website. Additional tourism content and local business information added.
- Need to progress map printing and installation of welcome boards.

Strengthening the Partnership

- Continued representation of the CRP at rail and community rail events, including GTR Community Rail Conference, Welwyn Garden City Centenary celebrations and Greater Anglia Station Adoption Awards.
- Joint entry submitted with Sarah Newman of Darent Valley CRP for the Community Rail Awards for the Chorus for Change event.

Rail Safety

- Level Crossing Safety Awareness events delivered at Foxton Station, Meldreth Road and Shepreth Station.
- Successful rail safety session delivered with Melbourn Guides.
- Further engagement planned with local Beavers, Cubs, Scout groups and sports clubs.

New Funding Opportunities

Applications submitted to GTR for:

- Slow flow planters at Shepreth Station.
- Rail safety education programme delivered through local sports clubs.

Discussion and Questions

Website

- Positive feedback received on the Cam Valley Gateway website.
- Suggestion made that partner logos in the website footer should link directly to partner organisations.

Action: Sarah Grove to investigate adding partner organisation links to the website footer.

Cycle Theft and Vandalism

Discussion focused on:

- Cycle thefts at Meldreth.
- Cycle and car park vandalism at Shepreth.
- Limitations around CCTV ownership, monitoring costs and land ownership responsibilities.
- Importance of reporting incidents to police.
- Potential need to strengthen engagement with British Transport Police.

- Information provided on station cycle theft in the wider area, suggesting the issue is currently widespread

Action: CRP to pursue discussions with GTR and British Transport Police regarding cycle theft and vandalism issues and explore possible solutions.

Item 4. Partner Updates

Community Rail Network Update

Colin Burcombe reported:

- Community Rail Conference taking place the following week.
- Appointment of a new Director of Member Experience.
- Decision not to pursue charitable status; Community Rail Network remains a company limited by guarantee.
- Accreditation process likely to move from annual to biennial review.
- Follow-up work required on issues raised during previous accreditation.

Action: Colin to follow up with Susan and Sarah regarding outstanding accreditation matters.

Greater Anglia Update

Alan Neville reported:

- Service performance improving following summer heatwave weather disruption.
- Successful Station Adopter Awards event held.
- Community Rail Day to be held on 13 November at Ipswich Town Football Club.
- Station adoption programme now exceeds 340 adopters.
- Cambridge South proving extremely successful, with over 400,000 entries and exits during its first 100 days.

Issues raised:

- National Rail Journey Planner not always suggesting Cambridge South as an interchange.
- Consistency of train announcements regarding connections at Cambridge South.

- Continuing delays to restoration of passenger information screens and ticket machine functionality at Shelford Station due to cable damage.

Actions:

- Jim Rickard to email Alan Neville regarding announcement wording at Cambridge South.
- Jim Rickard to email National Rail regarding Journey Planner routing concerns.

Network Rail Update

Sallie Bates reported:

- Level crossing awareness campaigns at Foxton, Shepreth and Meldreth Road.
- Additional biodiversity work undertaken through the Cambridge Re-signalling Project (C3R).
- Educational signage planned explaining biodiversity enhancements.
- School rail safety poster competition being developed, with winning designs planned for display at Meldreth and Shepreth stations.
- Continued monitoring of Meldreth Road level crossing following barrier changes.

Actions:

- Sally to feed back concerns regarding Cambridge South waiting facilities and platform shelter provision.
- Sally to raise concerns regarding communication with Network Rail contact Emily Wood.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

- East West Rail plans are developing.
- Concerns raised regarding Long Road bridge replacement and construction impacts. Positive response from East West Rail regarding undertaking major works during school holiday periods.
- Suggestion that CRP could act as a conduit for future East West Rail community benefit funding.

Cambridgeshire County Council

- Continued concerns about cycle crime at Meldreth.
- Discussion around ownership and responsibility of cycle parking facilities outside railway property.

Railfuture

- Strong support for Cambridge South station and evidence of increasing passenger numbers from local stations.
- Concerns raised regarding winter shelter provision and passenger comfort.
- Ongoing monitoring of station performance and rail service reliability.

Parish Councils

- Meldreth Parish Council concurred on problem of cycle theft.

5. Questions/Any other business

- Adam Bostanci commented that concerns about the Meldreth Road level crossing have died down considerably suggesting that the crossing is working as well as can be expected
- Susan offered thanks to attendees.

6. Next meeting: To be held in the New Year (date TBC).