

# Report on the Lakes Line Community Rail Partnership Meeting Held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (Adrian G Faulkner)

*Please note that this meeting was held before the Coronavirus outbreak, therefore some of the decisions/comments may now not be relevant!*

**Potholes at Windermere Station:** There was grave concern that remedial work had still not been carried out. Owain Roberts (northern) advised that work is imminent. Stan Collins (CCC) was informed that drainage work would be part of programme.

**Trees at Windermere Station:** - Network Rail to follow up. Jane Murray (Northern) has been looking at vegetation issues at stations.

**'Welcome to the Lakes Line':** the new May timetable is being drafted, including local advertising for the May 2020 leaflet. KE asked to be notified if any business wishes to be included on the leaflet.

**Post meeting note:** *Due to the escalation of the coronavirus crisis and advice emerging regarding non-essential travel, it has been decided that it would not be appropriate at this time to produce a promotional leaflet. Work will recommence when travel restrictions are lifted, and recovery plans are underway.*

## **Cumbria Tourism:**

**Legacy Items:** The Lakes Line Window Gazer is currently being drafted. The Cumbrian Coast Line Gazer will take some time to complete due to number of stations. New promotional drone filming to be considered further. Some funding ringfenced to work with LDNP to draw down some European Structural and Investment Funding which will create larger funding pot for future marketing package.

**Stay-Cation Campaign:** Cumbria Tourism is providing advice for businesses to help generate revenue from the UK visitor market as fewer people from abroad are coming into the area. Working with Avanti, TPE and other transport operators to deliver cohesive packages.

Gemma Porter advised that the impact of the virus has meant fewer hotels bookings and more self-catering holidays. Tim Owen asked how the public will know what Hotels/B&B will still be available. It was felt that all promotional plans in the area will generate interest and systems will manage - there is confidence that the market will bounce back.

It was acknowledged that the Lake District China Forum has played a significant role in increasing the Asian visitor market in recent years.

**MyCumbria** card looks good for future delivery/ some mapping has been undertaken – GP will circulate.

## **Strategy for the Lakes Line:**

Steve Curl (Cumbria LEP) gave an updated to the group including:

- Funding increasingly likely for Transport for the North overall project and appropriate connections for HS2 – High Speed North.
- Improvements on the Lakes Line are important and will be an integral part of overall Northern Powerhouse plans.
- The Lake District National Park's Partnership are revising a 10 year plan within that infrastructure.
- LDNP Strategic Plan – Sustainable Transport Group – needs to tie in with Cumbria County Council– the CCC Transport & Infrastructure Plan is being reviewed.
- There is lots of support from the Northern Powerhouse for funding in Cumbria

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- Very positive backdrop on improving Lakes Line
- Established technical feasibility
- Cost estimates from Network Rail
- Preference for a passing loop in Burneside station
- Costs up to £10M - similar to the Lakes Line Feasibility Study
- JT has liaised with Tim Farron
- Lake District Transport Consultation to be held in June – item on June’s CRP agenda

It was agreed that there was significant work to do within the framework. SC stated that the outcome would be a Lakes Line with greater facilities and flexibility for local people.

**Northern Update:**

New era under Directly Operated Holdings Limited (DOHL) - the Operator of Last Resort

- New Chair of Northern - Robin Gisby
- New Managing Director – Nick Donovan
- 100 day plan underway
- Initial commitments including 30 platform extensions across the Northern network and 17 additional trains from WMT
- Contract for 2 years
- Masterplan re Manchester
- PPM 95.6% and 6 cancellations on the Lakes Line - still one of best performing lines on the network
- Comparison with 2019 – far fewer CaSL and PPM rising
- Weather and infrastructure issues main causes – wires down/ fatalities/ flooding issues
- 17 May – all new trains will be in service
- Battery Trains – Eversholt and Northern – additional vehicle installed on 331 with battery underneath – suitable for Lakes Line subject to funding - adds another 40+ seats with it being a 4 car train
- Issues – charging point required at Windermere?
- Subject to funding
- £17k spent on Station Adoption Group

It was mentioned that there was insufficient luggage space on 195 trains. Northern stated that overhead space is now greater. Northern were asked if they could provide better signage as people were not aware of the extra space underneath the seating. It was reported that the banners and signs which are on order are for the doors to illustrate where customers with bikes and wheelchairs should board.

On board signage via the information screens is under constant review and being updated where faults are identified.

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It was mentioned that cancellations seem to increase during holiday times although buses were available. Northern are to investigate! They would also look at software issues with on board signing.

**TransPennine Express:**

Updated the meeting with the following:

- Management change
- PPM information
- Lots of new driver training
- 97 (Nova 2) unpredictable
- 5 more from next week- all in by end of March
- Timetable – additional calls at Oxenholme
- Liverpool to Glasgow service incorporates stops at Oxenholme but not all trains will stop