

THE Riviera Edition

The Cornwall Rail Development Partnership transporting you into the millennium

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The Riviera Project: What is it?

The Riviera Project embraces the strategy adopted by the Cornwall Rail Development Partnership for the upgrading and enhancement of railway stations in Cornwall and linking them to nearby tourist attractions. Its principal aims include:

- assisting economic regeneration
- furthering local transport objectives
- promotion of sustainable tourism.

The station improvement and development proposals stem from the findings of a study commissioned by the Partnership in 1997, which included a comprehensive survey and investigation at all Cornish stations. The survey provided a snapshot record of each station with recommendations for future improvements.

The Partnership Approach

The Cornwall Rail Development Partnership (members include Railtrack,

rail operating companies,

local authorities and bus operators)

have shown that working together is worthwhile and the Partnership

can already report

considerable successes. Taking

advantage of member contributions and

available grants, enhancement

schemes which previously would not have been possible have now been completed,

with an extra-over investment of more

than £700,000 being achieved up to the end

of 1999.

Improvements include:

- Improved access
- Facilities for the disabled
- New shelters
- New seating
- New and resurfaced car parks
- Refurbished buildings & fencing
- Platform improvements
- New passenger information panels at most stations
- New cycle stands
- Lighting improvements
- Improved road signing
- Leaflet dispensers



Branch Line Promotion by the Rail Partnership



Rail Partnership Officer Richard Burningham and his team are responsible for promoting the use of rural branch lines both in Devon and Cornwall. In 1999 alone, over 1.7 million publicity leaflets were produced and distributed by his office.



Station Upgrades

Enhancements have been completed at many stations. Here are some typical examples:

Liskeard

Liskeard station is an important main line interchange for the Looe Valley line. It also connects with local bus services and has a busy park-and-ride commuter use to



Plymouth and elsewhere. The station has been greatly improved and new access ramps for the disabled have been installed.

Improvements include:

- New car park to the West of the station
- New entrance and paving
- Resurfaced access roads
- Cycle provision
- Seating
- Lighting
- Signing

Penmere

One of the five branch line stations improved on the Truro to Falmouth route.

Improvements include:

- New seating
- Cycle facilities
- Lighting
- New waiting shelter
- Public information system
- Car park
- Fencing
- Signing



Roche

Roche is one of five enhanced branch line stations serving the local community on the Newquay to Par line.

Improvements include:

- Upgraded shelter
- Lighting
- Improved entrance
- Platform surfacing
- Seating
- Fencing
- Signing

Measuring Success



Bob Houghton, Wales & West's Business Development Manager says, "Substantial improvements in our stations throughout Cornwall with partnership schemes in the last four years has brought a significant increase in passenger satisfaction as part of their journey experience.

Real-time train running information points at all 34 Cornish stations have provided reassurance and information. This has been especially welcome at our unstaffed stations.

We have also seen an increase on patronage of the rail system in Cornwall, the upgrading of station facilities has been a major factor in achieving this."

Have we been able to assess whether we are attracting more users onto our trains?



What's Next?

Helston Branch Line



The aim of the project has been to recreate the Helston Branch Line in every respect

but using buses instead of trains. Features of the project include:-

- new adapted low-floor buses with facilities for bicycles and luggage
- connections with most main line trains
- easy interchange
- through ticketing (including on-bus sales)
- full information in the national rail timetable and enquiry service
- new station and platform facilities
- facilities for the disabled
- new and improved bus stops/shelters on route

An excellent start has already been made. Truronian's T34 bus service connects with trains at Redruth station and serves the community between Redruth and Helston and the Lizard Peninsula.

The partners see this project as an ideal example of how the government's policy on integrated transport can be applied in practice on a local scale. We are delighted to announce that the required funding package is now in place for infrastructure works and that completion is scheduled for mid 2000.



Tamar Valley Line

A funding package involving Regional Challenge European funding is now in place and is about to commence.

The total amount available for the project is £180,000 with four stations being targeted



for refurbishment: Gunnislake, Calstock, Bere Ferrers and Bere Alston.

The proposed improvements will include the upgrade of lighting, shelters, fences and seating, new information boards and signage, and general repairs and repainting.

Penzance Public Transport Interchange

Ideas are being formulated for a project in conjunction with First Western National, Railtrack, Wales & West, Penwith District Council, and Cornwall County Council. Proposals will include a new bus terminal, improved pedestrian and disabled facilities and connections to 'The Cornish Way' - an integral part of the National Cycle Network and will provide 170 miles of signposted routes for cyclists and pedestrians. Scheme

completion is anticipated during 2000.



Thinking ahead for St. Austell

The first phase of the St Austell project (upside) has been completed. Works include a new car park, refurbishment of the buildings and over-bridge.



The next phase (downside building) is currently underway. The old buildings have been removed and a new building is under construction. These will provide much improved ticket office and waiting facilities for travellers.



A further phase is envisaged. The station is the focal point in the town for bus, rail, pedestrian and cycle (it is on the route of the Cornish Way). It will also be an important link for visitors travelling to the prestigious Eden Project. Preliminary designs for an improved station frontage layout and integrated bus station will be commissioned early in the year to take advantage of any funding opportunities, when they arise.

What Partners say:

Plymouth City Council

Ray Bentley

Head of Transport Service

The Cornwall Rail Development Partnership provides a valuable forum for all stakeholders in the sustainable transport industry to prepare, support and implement real transport improvements. Such a partnership only exists because of the commitment to public transport solutions

throughout the region and the drive from Cornwall County Council officers. Plymouth City Council is pleased to continue to support the Partnership as its work impacts significantly on the Plymouth travel to work area (TTWA). If the rail industry appreciated the true value of the Partnership, a real turnaround in rural rail infrastructure and services in the Plymouth TTWA and Cornwall could be achieved to the benefit of all passengers.

Wales & West Passenger Trains

Bob Houghton

Business Development Manager

Wales & West has found the work of the Riviera Project invaluable throughout Cornwall. The Project's ability to focus specifically on particular station locations and bring out all the practical aspirations of the local community in one document is a great strength. Through the Project sources of additional funding have been identified at key stations enabling provision of maximum benefits to the local public transport infrastructure and providing a quality station environment for the local community, tourists and all users of the railway network in Cornwall.

John Taylor

Property Services Manager

The Riviera Project, developed initially as a vision for the future by the Cornwall Rail Development Partnership, has become a living, working document which has produced real benefits for the community. Several schemes have been completed and much more is planned for the future enhancements of our stations. The works not only benefit commuters and holidaymakers but also local businesses who provide support services to undertake the works. The Partnership is a valuable and successful forum and all partners can only benefit from their involvement.

Caradon District Council

Geoff Roughton

Local Plans Officer

Caradon District Council is an active player in the Cornwall Rail Development Partnership, and supports the implementation of the Riviera Project. The improvements to rail stations and services form an essential component of the wider

strategy to integrate land use and transport provision, in a manner that accords with the Government's Sustainable Development Strategy. These both aim to reduce reliance on the car and encourage alternative means of travel which have less environmental impact and promote social inclusion. The project links closely with the transport strategy for the Plymouth TTWA covering South East Cornwall.

Restormel Borough Council

Philip Randall

Strategic Development Officer

The Rail Partnership has been crucial in helping secure funds for the Riviera Project itself and in a lobbying role with regard to

rail related proposals. In my view, it's most important role has been in bringing all the relevant parties together, in what has been a complex time for the rail industry. Without the group the opportunities for poor communication and unco-ordinated action would have been so much greater.



DEVON & CORNWALL RAIL PARTNERSHIP

