

CfR NEWS ARCHIVE 2021

17 March 2021

Bids for round 3 of "Restoring Your Railway" funding announced



The Department for Transport has announced that 85 bids for funding have been received in Round 3 of the "Restoring Your Railway" scheme.

Of the 85 bids, 36 are new, 30 are rejected round 1 bids that have been resubmitted, 16 are rejected round 2 bids that have been resubmitted, while the final 3 are making their third attempt for funding.

Among the bids submitted in the West Midlands area are proposals to open stations at Castle Bromwich, Fort Parkway, Galley Common, Tettenhall, Foleshill, Coundon Road, Biley/Willenhall and Etruria. There are also schemes to reinstate passenger services on lines between Stourbridge and Brierley Hill, Oswestry and Gobowen, Lichfield and Burton-on-Trent, Stoke and Leek, and the Sutton Park Line.

27 October 2021
Final "Restoring Your Railway" successful funding bids announced



The Department for Transport has announced that 13 of the 85 bids for funding received in Round 3 of the "Restoring Your Railway" scheme have been approved.

In the West Midlands, just two of the eleven schemes submitted were accepted.

- To reopen the Oswestry to Gobowen line
- To reopen the Stoke to Leek line

These two schemes will receive funding to progress outline business cases to support the possible reopening of the lines in the future.

The other 11 schemes which were accepted are :-

- To reopen the Darlington to Weardale line to passenger services
- To reopen the Ashton to Stockport line to passenger services
- To reopen the Middlewich line to passenger services
- To reopen the Rawtenstall to Buckley Wells line to passenger services
- To reopen Corsham Station
- To reopen Stonehouse Bristol Road station
- To reinstate the line and provision of new services, Tavistock to Plymouth
- To reopen the Gaerwen to Amlwch line, Anglesey to passenger services
- To reopen the Askern Branch line
- To reopen the Don Valley line to passenger services
- To reinstate the Beverley to York line

This was the third and final stage of the Restore Your Railway fund, so no further funding applications can be made in the foreseeable future.

2 November 2021
Campaign for Rail reacts to current level of cancelled services



Campaign for Rail has been liaising with rail user groups in monitoring the deteriorating level of service provided by West Midlands Railway, particularly on non-electrified lines where short-notice cancellations are commonplace. The situation has reached crisis point in the last couple of weeks with passengers suffering great inconvenience due to uncertainty as to whether services will operate or not. Cancellations in the past week has resulted in the following : -

- Gaps of up to 3 hours in each direction between services at stations on the line from Wythall to Wootton Waven
- Gaps of up to 3 hours in each direction between Stourbridge line services to/from Hartlebury, Droitwich Spa and Worcester
- A gap of 4 hours between services stopping at Hartlebury towards Worcester
- Gaps of up to 2 hours in each direction in services calling at Blakedown, Lye, Old Hill and Langley Green.
- A gap of 1 hour 18 minutes between services from Snow Hill towards the Stourbridge line on Saturday 30 October between 1336 and 1454. Fortunately, West Bromwich Albion were playing away that day.
- The cancellation of the last 5 trains of the day on 26 October from Worcester and the Stourbridge line to Snow Hill meaning that the last train of the day was the 2020 from Worcester Foregate Street (2042 from Kidderminster, 2054 from Stourbridge Junction).
- The cancellation of the last two trains of the day to and from Stratford-upon-Avon meaning the last train from Snow Hill was at 2027 and the last train from Stratford was at 2126.
- Major disruption on the Nuneaton – Coventry – Leamington Spa route on 30 October. Of the 64 services on the NUCKLE line at Kenilworth, 37 were substituted by bus services as normal due to driver shortages, 11 were cancelled and 1 skipped stopping at the station, meaning only 15 trains services stopped at the station.

On Friday 29 October, four Rail User Groups affiliated to Campaign for Rail – Cotswold Line Promotion Group, Shakespeare Line Promotion Group, Solihull and Leamington Spa Rail Users Association and Stourbridge Line User Group – sent a joint letter to West Midlands Rail Executive asking for action to be taken to resolve the current issues. Campaign for Rail has added its weight to this action by sending its own letter to the Executive Director of the West Midlands Rail Executive and has also issued a press release. All three documents may be read by clicking on the appropriate button below.

Campaign for Rail hopes that the action it, and the four user groups, has taken will result in action being taken to alleviate the current appalling situation.