

Jools
Townsend
Chief executive

Rail Scotland
conference
March 2024



About community rail

- A growing grassroots movement
- 77 community rail partnerships + 1,200 station groups, with c. 10.2k volunteers
- Helping communities get the most value from their railways
- Helping rail to be community-focused
- Creating local connections, ownership and positivity



6VT, Edinburgh's youth-led CRP



Borders Railway volunteers with their Transport Tapestry

Community rail in Scotland



Linking railway and community



- + 260 stations adopted by >1,200 volunteers
- + Expert support from us, funded by Paths for All
- + Collaborative work with the rail industry & local partners



Vision for Scotland's transport:

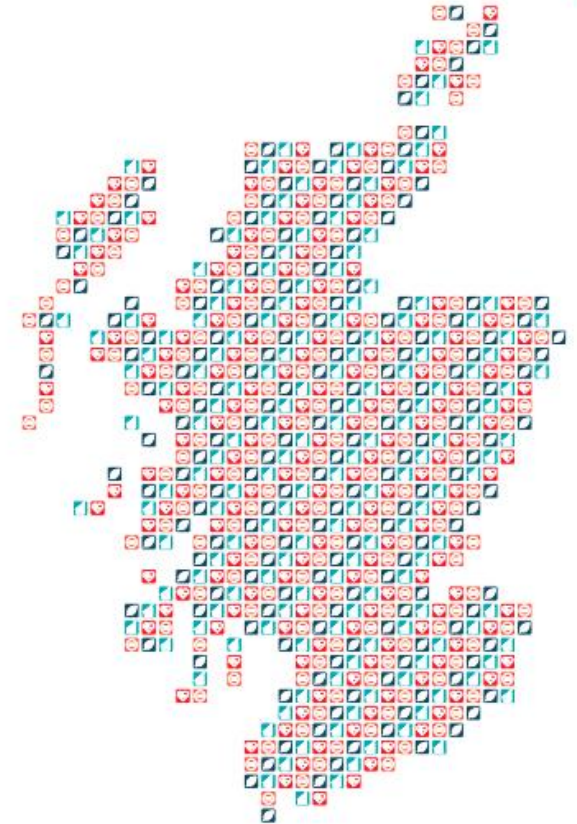
We will have a sustainable, inclusive, safe and accessible transport system, helping deliver a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Scotland for communities, businesses and visitors.

Community Rail Network's vision:

A flourishing community rail movement connecting people and their railways, making the maximum contribution to inclusive, empowered, sustainable and healthy communities.



NATIONAL
TRANSPORT
STRATEGY
PROTECTING OUR CLIMATE
AND IMPROVING LIVES



1. Reducing inequality

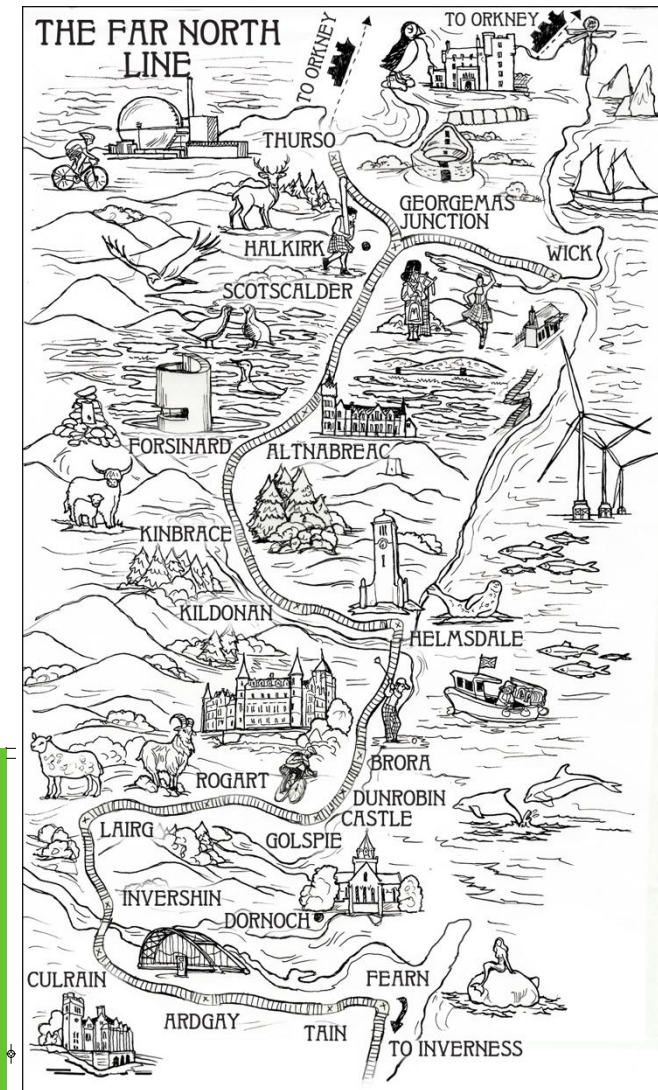
- Breaking down perceived and practical mobility barriers
- Providing rail confidence, skills and familiarity for marginalised groups
- Empowering communities and enabling people with diverse lived experience to have a voice and shape transport



Rail 74's Inclusivity Matters project

2. Taking climate action

- Empowering communities to make positive change together, from the grassroots (in line with research)
- Building a vision of a greener transport future
- Connectivity with active travel and buses



Far North Line CRP's illustrated map

Let's go for **1** in **5**

Help Scotland cut car use by 20%
for a **greener**, healthier future

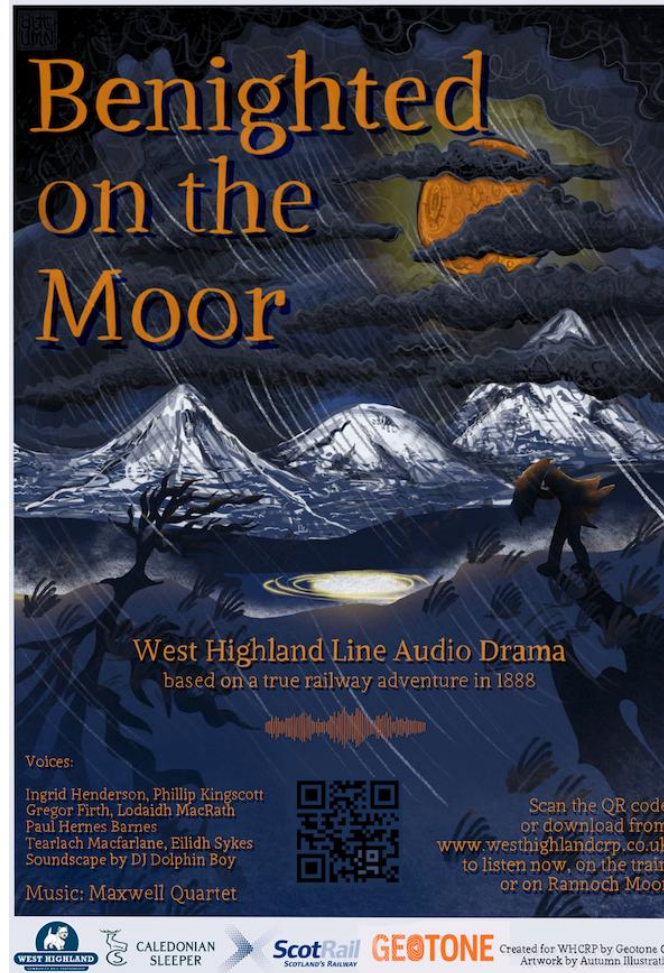


6VT & me, boarding the Hydroflex at COP26

3. Inclusive economic development

- Inspiring leisure travel & tourism by rail
- Working with local businesses, arts & attractions
- Spurring regeneration through station development
- Access to jobs & training

West Highland Line's Benighted on the Moor audio drama project



Benighted on the Moor

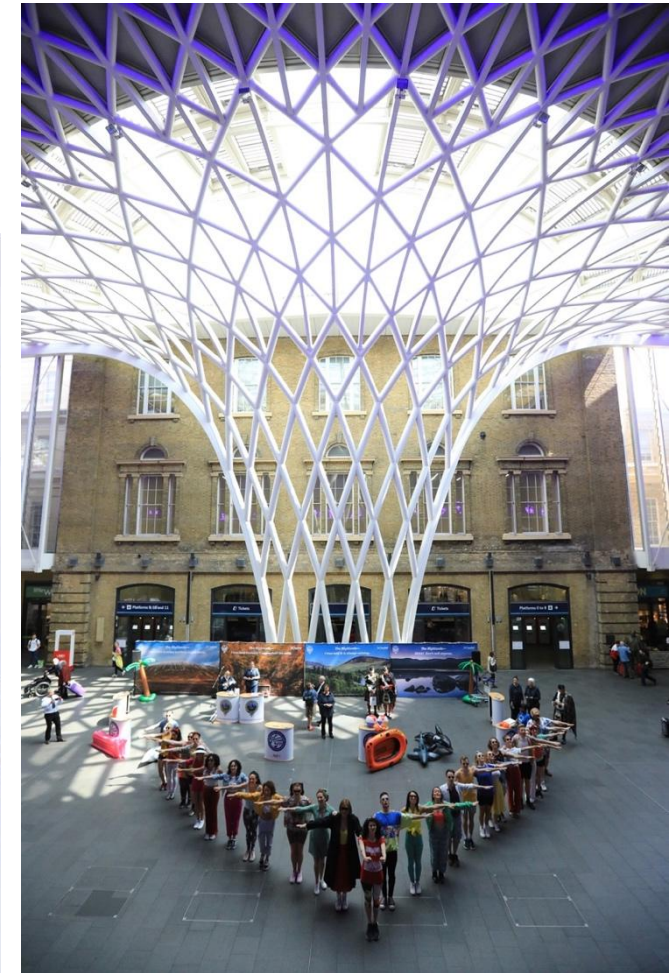
West Highland Line Audio Drama
based on a true railway adventure in 1888

Voices:
Ingrid Henderson, Phillip Kingscott
Gregor Firth, Lodaith MacRath
Paul Hermes Barnes
Tearlach MacFarlane, Eilidh Sykes
Soundscape by DJ Dolphin Boy

Music: Maxwell Quartet

Scan the QR code
or download from
www.westhighlandcrp.co.uk
to listen now, on the train
or on Rannoch Moor

WEST HIGHLAND CALEDONIAN SLEEPER ScotRail GEOTONE Created for WHCRP by Geotone CIC Artwork by Autumn Illustration



Highland Mainline CRP's highland fling at King's Cross

4. Improving health & wellbeing

- Volunteering and community gardening
- Locally-led projects building pride, cohesion and confidence
- Enabling active travel and healthy leisure
- Bringing people together

Fiona Horne, 6VT: *“Just being a part of the CRP improves our young people’s emotional wellbeing. It gives them a focus and improves their personal development.”*



Community gardening at Rutherglen Station

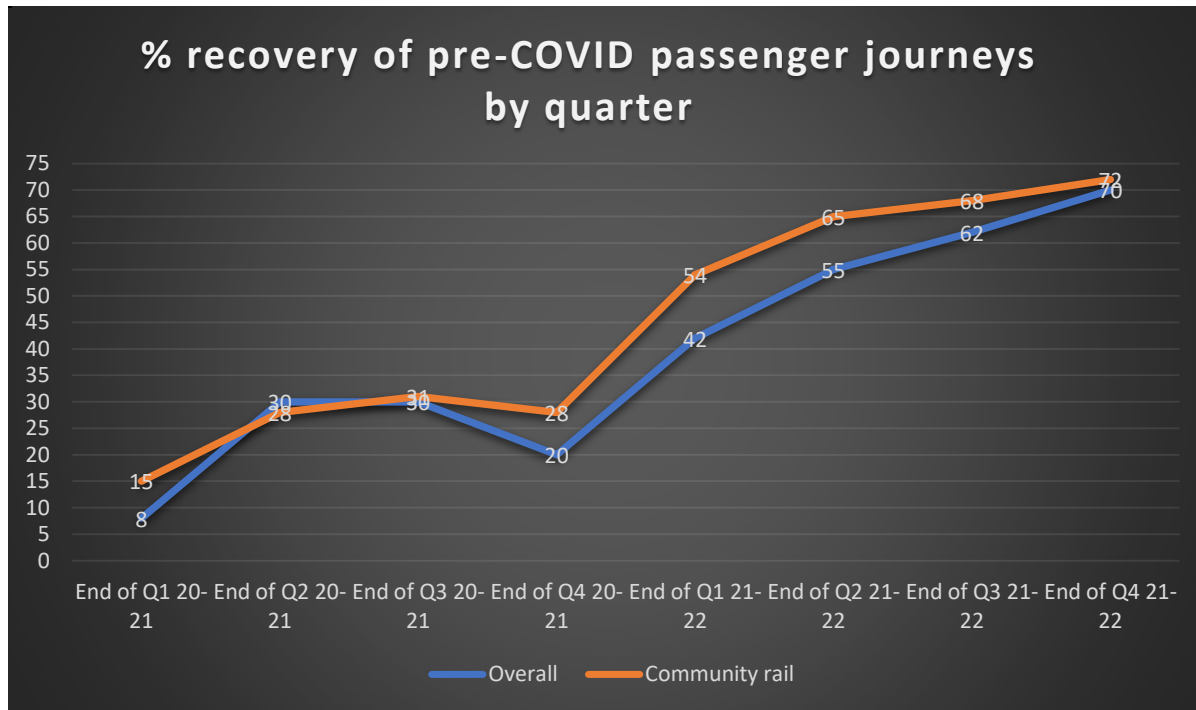


Friends of Glenfinnan Station's restored heritage benches

Community rail's growing impact



...on the numbers



Provisional Community Rail Network analysis using Lennon data

...on people's lives



People coming together at Kilmarnock, supported by Kilmarnock Station Trust

(See our [Value of Community Rail Report](#))

Going up a gear, working together



Platform community rail education programme
(Sevenside, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and
Transwilt Community Rail Partnerships)



Tackling Loneliness with Transport project,
Gloucestershire & Sevenside CRPs



How you can work with us

- Talk to us and discuss ideas
- Community Rail Week 20-26 May
- Local projects with the CRPs
- Corporate partnership with us
- Volunteering, in-kind support, collaboration & sponsorship
- Link up on schools / community engagement

See <https://communityrail.org.uk/partners-and-supporters/our-partners-supporters/>



**We're keen to
explore how we can
work together**

Visit our stand!

Visit communityrail.org.uk
Email caroline@communityrail.org.uk
or hazel@communityrail.org.uk

