

Purbeck Community Rail Partnership (PCRP) meeting

1. I attended a virtual meeting of the PCRP on the 1st of September 2022 on behalf of the Parish Council.

Present were Dorchester town council, Wareham town council, the National Trust, Dorset Council, the Community Rail Network, Swanage Railway, Network Rail, Perenco, and the South Western Railway and CCPC.

2. The Purbeck Community Rail Partnership (PCRP) organisation started the meeting with a presentation where they described the following ongoing projects:

- Disability consultation
- The Wareham bus shelter
- The shuttle bus to Arne organised by the RSPB
- The friends of Wareham station
- Flowers at Wareham
- Jurassic coast
- Beryl bikes at Wool
- Explore Moreton
- Dorchester South station
- The 175th anniversary of the Southampton to Dorchester railway
- The PCRP line guide.

All these projects were being worked on by volunteers, the aim being to improve the railway ambiance and usability. There are now friends of all stations between Holton Heath and Dorchester South. The friends are doing much of the work.

3. Swanage railway

Swanage Railway is pressing ahead with volunteer recruitment and is trying to retain more of the volunteers they already have. They are conducting recruiting at South Western Railway stations and are creating activities at those stations.

Swanage railway numbers are down on last year so there is a very challenging year ahead.

The Flying Scotsman will be running on the Swanage railway at the end of October dining car trains and the little lights trains will be run over the Christmas.

In general the Swanage Railway is worried about the economic prospects

There has been no progress with SR taking on the Furzebrook sidings, despite everyone agreeing it is a necessary activity. The SR is going to see if priority can be applied as there is no current update.

The connection to Wareham was also discussed but there was no further information other than the already announced delay till next year.

Stephen Dru Drury