

PURBECK COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP STAKEHOLDER GROUP AND AGM MEETING

HELD IN PERSON ON 01 OCTOBER 2025



Present:

Beryl Ezzard of Dorset Council, Wareham Town Council, and Friends of Wareham Railway Station (BE - Chairperson), Mike Whitwam (MWm - Vice Chairperson), Steven Booth (SB - Community Rail Officer), Mick Stone (MS - Secretary) of Swanage Railway,, Alex Brocklesby of National Trust (AB), David Budd (DB) of Wareham Town Council, Tony Smale of Purbeck Transport Action Group and Friends of Wool (TS), Andrew Ardley of South Western Railway (AA), Matt Richter of Wareham St Martin PC (MR)

Apologies: Emma Scott of Dorchester Town Council (ES), Jenni Jones of Community Rail Network (JJ), Jack Wharton of Network Rail (JW), Cllr Andy Hadley of BC&P Council (AH), Paula Aldridge of South Western Railway (PA), Kelly Flynn of Dorset Council (KF), Richard Wade (RW) of Morebus/Go South Coast, Cllr Jon Andrews of Dorset Council (JA), Ali Rodari (AR) and Rob Smith of Perenco UK (RS), Frank Roberts of Swanage Railway (FER), Katie Black (KB) of Durlston Country Park, and Cllr Cliff Sutton (CS) of Swanage Town Council.

Agenda Item 1 - Chairperson's Welcome, Introductions, & Opening Remarks

BE welcomed all to the meeting. She thanked SB for making the light lunch available.

Agenda Item 2 - Apologies for Absence

Recorded above.

Agenda Item 3 - Notes of the Stakeholder Group Meeting held on 16th April 2025

There was one question - MWm asked if Perenco had announced any proposals for making hydrogen available. BE referred to recent local meetings but it was unclear what the answer was. There were no points of accuracy, and so the notes were confirmed.

Agenda Item 4 - Funding Report

SB had circulated his report which included an update on Funding. There were no questions. SB confirmed that the Partnership had been Re-Accredited. The 2025 Annual Review was now available on the website on the partnership page. There were some actions required. SB was congratulated on his work in this regard.

BE added that Steering Group had agreed to extend the current arrangement with Hampshire CRP to act as Accountable Body on behalf of PCRP, for a further year from 1st October 2025.

Agenda Item 5 - CRPO's Presentation

SB had circulated a report which was tabled at the meeting. Key points were:

- The Decals for the new waiting shelters at Dorchester South and Wool: SB re-iterated that this project was taking a lot of his time, in view of the consultations he needed to undertake with various stakeholders. Further, he asked for input on what should be undertaken on the Down platform at Dorchester South - the existing large flower bed was probably too big for station adopters to manage.
- The 'Tanks on Trains' project at Wool, including three large posters and the Loader. AB commented that the various lettering styles at Wool looked confusing and wondered about standardising them.
- Wareham Station Railway 200 Event in June -elements of this event had been put forward to both the CRN and SWR Awards. BE was thanked again for her efforts in organising this event.
- Purbeck Shuttle 200 - this had not been as successful as the previous year. Statistics had just been shared by DCT. Journeys on Saturdays had been poorly supported. SB noted that there would be some farebox income to take into account. There were various comments made, and AB pointed out that the draft figures showed the cost as being £10 per person carried. It was also commented that 2026's Jurassic Coast promotion would help in future. There would be a review meeting in November and further discussion at Steering Group on 18th November.

- Travelling with Confidence programme - SB was liaising with CRN about this programme which was funded by Motability.
- SB presented a slide entitled 'Plans and Projects Under Consideration for 2026' and is appended to these notes for reference as part of the PowerPoint presentation. MW asked if there was any prospect of SWR DMU operations in 2026 and AA explained why that wouldn't be possible. And AB thought that 45 minutes for Wareham to Swanage might be too long to tempt passengers. MR said that funding could improve the timings.

6. Updates from Stakeholders

South Western Railway

AA spoke to confirm the following:

- The Integrated Business (SWR plus Network Rail Wessex Route) was due to be formed in October/November 2025. It would have a Joint Executive. When GTR was back in the public sector in 2026, the Southern Region would be entirely in public ownership.
- The new SWR would be asked to provide a three year Business Plan (currently one year) with a further 2 years in draft form. This would give SWR more freedom but would also be more challenging.
- He confirmed that SWR was considering proposals for a new CRP to cover the BCP area.
- There would be a Stakeholder Conference in London on 20th November, as well as the Community Rail Conference in Guildford on 16th October.
- The funding for the design work for the proposed lifts at Dorchester South would identify the location and thus enable a view to be taken on other issues, such as planting areas.
- He would be making submissions on both the Local Plan and LTP4 in respect of Dorchester South and Moreton - in both cases substantial new housing was proposed.
- Totems - there would be a meeting shortly with the Software company to improve the material available.
- Jurassic Coast By Train - there would be dedicated website set up by Devon & Cornwall CRP, to which PCRP was contributing. AA hoped that there might be Dorset-wide Rail Rover, complete with Bus add-on fares.
- The R200 train was due to be at Southampton Central from 14th to the 16th December 2025 and tickets were now available.
- There would be a line closure between Poole and Dorchester South in November.
- He hoped that the Stakeholder Conference in November would announce the CCIF programme for 2026.

Dorset Council

No report.

Network Rail

No report.

Friends of Wool

TS referred to the reappearance of the bus planter at Wool, the shuttle bus to the Tank Museum, and that Wool Parish Council had access to some funding for a local bus service between Wool and Bovington possibly provided by DCT.

Wareham TC

No report but DB commented that future of the level crossing at Wareham seemed to be more secure.

Community Rail Network

No report.

Morebus

No report.

National Trust

AB advised that a lot of her time was spent on mobilising local groups to be Leaders, looking at the Big Picture. She also said that she was looking at cycling and walking routes around Norden (Purbeck Park) and Corfe Castle.

Also, there was a programme looking at Asset-Based approach e.g. minibuses being used more widely when not needed by their owners, so that those owners could demonstrate they were contributing to the Community.

Perenco UK

No report. SB reminded the meeting that Perenco had paid £400 towards the Purbeck Shuttle 200 bus in 2025.

Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole Council

No report.

Swanage Town Council

No report.

Swanage Railway

In FR's absence MS read out the main points from the former's notes. This included:

- Much healthier financial position, allowing the appointment of the CEO and other additional staff; the Governance Review and AGM, which was taking a lot of management time; better relationships with Swanage TC and Dorset Council; the signing of a Collaborative Working Arrangement with NR Wessex Route.
- MW added that there was a proposal to build a temporary halt to serve Blue Pool, to open in May 2026, subject to planning permission. Santa Specials would be making a return to SR in November/ December.

Purbeck Transport Action Group (PTAG)

The Group was undertaking a refresh of its Action Plan. It was understood that Corfe Castle PC had access to funding for local transport. AA suggested that this might include Demand Responsive transport, as with Stourhead.

Friends of Wareham Station

BE referred to Stations in Bloom and the presentations at Wisley in late October. She added that she intended to remain as Convenor for the time being.

Agenda Item 7. Q&A

These had been dealt with during discussion of the agenda items. There were no additional questions.

Agenda Item 7. Any Other Business

- BE noted that SWR was leading with discussions on the proposal for a new CRP in the BC&P area.
- BE also noted that nominations for Chair would be taken at Steering Group at its meeting on 18th November 2025.

Date of Next Stakeholder Meeting - Weds 29th April 2026 - online only.

MS - 09/10/25 v2

ENDS

Steven Booth
Purbeck Community Rail Officer
steve.booth@purbeckcrp.org.uk
Tel: 07485 372137

