

# Coffee Shop Forum

[http://gwr.passenger.chat/  
forum@railcustomer.info](http://gwr.passenger.chat/forum@railcustomer.info)

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48, Spa Road, Melksham, SN12 7NY

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018



Dear Alice,

## **Community Rail in the City, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

I am writing to formally let you know that the Great Western Coffee Shop Forum would like to take part in "Community Rail in the City" next May, at **Reading station**.

The Coffee Shop has been running for 12 years, has over 2,000 members and is in process of agreeing a forward constitution as a virtual Community Rail Partnership. We were awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Small Project ACoRP awards category in October, and were hosted at the event by GWR with whom we have a close relationship. We intend to apply for ACoRP membership in the new year, bolstered by the move from designation to certification which fits us very well as we are not line specific. I had a brief chat with both Nik and Anders about our plans in Glasgow, and have also passed a document which describes where we're headed to Martin and Paul within the last fortnight. Much of our philosophy wording is moulded from ACoRP's philosophy and you'll find a chart laying out how the Coffee Shop fits in with other groups in that document - copy attached.

For Reading, I would propose / request / suggest a stall area on the Transfer bridge. I have taken a look at the station / area with a couple of colleagues, and we have re-assured ourselves that it would be safe, would attract plenty of attention, and would not cause undue congestion. I have spoke with a number of other CRPs and we have support from North Downs, Severnside and Devon and Cornwall - typically in briefing us and supplying literature to encourage daily commuters and other passengers at Reading to try out some of the lines they may not be familiar with. Other CRPs easily reached from Reading remain to be approached, as do line groups such as CLPG.

We have also raised with GWR the possibility of having a GWR manager join us to combine the event with one of their "meet the manager" sessions, and we have spoken with the Mayor of Reading who has the event in her diary to come along and help us get a bit of attention and publicity. We'll also be graced by the presence of Isambird Kingdom BrunOwl - the Bath Owl statue sponsored by GWR this summer, and currently hibernating in Melksham. Other exhibition / display materials and banners to be on hand too - and we would gratefully accept (but not require) ACoRP materials. We have our own exhibition tables, materials, etc ... three of the team have been involved in past Community Rail in the City in past years (at Waterloo, with TransWilts) and at other station "pop up" stands such as this summer at Swindon.

Please confirm that all of this looks sensible and in order, and let me know if there's anything more you need at this stage to help you put the data and risk cases forward to Network Rail. I'm pretty well certain we can do an excellent day's promotion for wider community rail next May, for the positive marketing of community rail and other services, ACoRP, Great Western, and CRPs through the area - the line specific ones and our own virtual CRP too.

Graham (Ellis) – Admin and Webmaster  
on behalf of the Admin and Moderator team at the Coffee Shop

To: Alice Mannion, ACoRP, cc: other ACoRP team members mentions and Coffee Shop Admins