

DFK AGM 29 January 2019 – Report from Rod Tickner

LMCRP

The Bentham Line is the working title for the Leeds-Morecambe Community Rail Partnership (LMCRP). It was set up in 2006 and has its offices at Bentham Station and works to improve services and develop community links along the railway line.

Intro GPT

2016 funded by Northern.

There are three main aims to the Community Rail and Dementia project. The Bentham Line is 'working to become dementia friendly', by:

- supporting the journeys of those living with dementia, their carers and supporters,
- raising awareness of dementia with staff, volunteers and passengers
- creating dementia-friendly station environments, services and activities.

Last year Sandra already mentioned trips to Forest of Bowland and Morecambe which we feel were highly successful and some one has asked can we do some more. Yes we can – happy to go to Morecambe again – good coffee shop there!

Over the last six months Gerald Townson, Catherine Huddleston, the Bentham Line Partnership Officer, and myself have been delivering sessions for frontline staff to raise awareness of dementia and also enrol attendees as dementia friends. GPT, CH became Dementia Friends Champions during the year.

Gerald said, "I am pleased to mark the positive involvement shown by allowing these vital front-line staff to attend the two-hour awareness raising sessions. Almost 50 of the staff have attended and with volunteers and other groups, such as British Transport Police, the overall number to attend the sessions is near 200."

Some of what we do is now regularly reported in the Keighley News.

Last week: naming of a train "The Bentham Line – A Dementia-Friendly Railway" by Peter Wilkinson, Managing Director of Passenger Services, Rail Group, at the Department for Transport.

Peter Wilkinson, said; "I am incredibly proud to be at this event. It highlights a significant project that helps make public transport accessible to many more people." Peter commented; "we often think of railways as just a mode of transport; a means to an end. Our railways are so much more than that: they are the lifeblood of our communities; and an important way to bring people together. Our

communities are everything and the Bentham Line's dementia-friendly project is a fine example reflecting this."

The train, can travel over all the wide-ranging Northern network so could be seen as far away as Carlisle, Newcastle, Lincoln, Nottingham, Chester, right across West Yorkshire, around Manchester and from the West Coast to the East coast. The train will act as an 'ambassador' for the work of the Dementia and Community Rail project team over much of northern England.

On the same day some Art work at Bentham Station was unveiled at Bentham. Since summer 2018 the LMCRP has been working with the 'Making Art' group at Pioneer Projects in Bentham; a local art and health charity. The 'Window on Bowland and The Dales' project has given the opportunity for local residents who are living with dementia to capture the local scenery, each supported by a local volunteer and led by a professional artist to meet in a safe, calm and supportive environment. Suggests that we need to be sharing ideas with other DF communities as I am sure we can all learn from each other.

In coming year expect to continue, we have train crew to take through awareness sessions and expect the approach being increasingly more and more noticed in the railway industry through the network of contacts we have.