



Pictured at Jewellery Quarter station (l-r): Gaynor Steele (station adopter), Ayannah Wilson (WMRE), Ian Taylor (West Midlands Railway) and Steve Lovell (JQ BID)

Jan 27, 2021 09:15 GMT

Eco-garden to be installed at popular Birmingham station following West Midlands Railway community grant

A major scheme to install an eco-garden at one of Birmingham's busiest inner-city stations has been given the go-ahead thanks to a community grant from West Midlands Railway (WMR).

Jewellery Quarter station, which welcomed over half a million passengers last year, will have a 'green makeover' thanks to community volunteers working

with the area's Business Improvement District (BID).

The £66,000 scheme, titled "Greening a Grey Station", will see 'living walls' of plants and shrubs installed at the station to enhance the environment for passengers and residents. The walls have been designed by lead station adopter and local garden designer Gaynor Steele.

The project will also involve training opportunities for community members who want to develop their own urban gardening projects.

Fay Easton, head of community and stakeholder for WMR, said:

"We are delighted to be working with a talented urban gardener, local volunteers and the Jewellery Quarter BID on this fantastic project to makeover one of our stations which is so important to the businesses and community it serves.

"Throughout the pandemic our focus has been on keeping our services running for our customers who need them but we are also looking to the future and have been working with communities to make sure the railway is an inviting and welcoming place for our passengers.

"This innovative community project is central to our ethos at West Midlands Railway in working with local people to ensure the railways are at the heart of our neighbourhoods."

This project was selected by WMR as part of its inaugural Customer and Communities Improvement Fund (CCIF), with funding provided by the Department for Transport.

As part of CCIF, WMR and sister company London Northwestern Railway will invest a total of £1.7million in dozens of community projects across the network in coming months.

The Jewellery Quarter scheme is designed to show how an urban railway station can tackle pollution with careful planting schemes, wildflowers and vertical systems to improve biodiversity and improve local air quality.

The project includes edible planting, rainwater collection, art panels and the creation of green areas to soften the landscape and provide spaces for passengers to relax and learn about the Jewellery Quarter.

Steve Lovell, from the Jewellery Quarter BID, said:

“This project is central to our plans in improving the aesthetic of the Jewellery Quarter and increasing the amount of green spaces.

”By turning the station into an eco-garden, we’re not only helping to improve the environment, we’re also creating an inviting entry point into the Jewellery Quarter that will increase footfall for our independent businesses. We can’t wait to get started.”

About West Midlands Trains

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast Main Line to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street and Birmingham Snow Hill.

For more information on these services visit westmidlandsrailway.co.uk or londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

If you have been sent this press release, this is because we believe this to be of interest to you.

To sign up for all future releases, visit our newsroom and subscribe to our updates. You can unsubscribe to our releases at any time.

Contacts



Press Office - Media Use Only

Press Contact

press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

0330 095 5626