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London Northwestern Railway launches community fund

Communities from across the London Northwestern Railway network are being invited to put forward ideas for help transform their areas.

The "Your Community, Your Fund" scheme is now open for applications and aims to inspire people to get involved with the railway, as well as supporting established groups by helping them to enrich their local communities. The fund has already supported a number of community-led projects and is set to do the same during 2022.

The process of applying is simple. LNR is inviting communities and social enterprise groups to submit their projects – which will then undergo a selection process. If chosen, each project will need to be completed by February 2023 and will receive support from LNR's dedicated rail and community teams to help bring their visions to life.

The application window is open until Wednesday 11 May, with successful bids due to be announced in coming weeks. The scheme is open to local communities and social enterprises that are in need of funding, to help develop projects across the LNR network – with the core focus to deliver significant benefits to their local community and station.

Last year, LNR helped bring a number of exciting projects across its network – and saw communities flourish as a result. Various stations saw upgrades and improvements installed such as the regeneration of the station gallery at Nuneaton station and new signage for Wolverton station. As well as supporting a selection of brilliant schemes that brightened up local areas – including the transformation of the station square outside Milton Keynes Central. To find out more about the incredible work that has already taken place at the stations we serve, please visit here.

Tim Bellenger, head of stakeholder and community at London Northwestern Railway, said: "It's great to see our brilliant funding initiative is back once again. The scheme offered a variety of communities and social enterprises the chance to enhance their local railway last year, and I can't wait to see the work we're able to achieve this time around.

"The railways are such an important part of the communities they operate in, and our funding not only inspires individuals but gives them the opportunity to make a difference too. I'm looking forward to seeing the amazing variety of projects that are submitted and urge anyone thinking of applying that meets requirements to absolutely go for it. It's great to see the impact we can make when we come together."

The Your Community, Your Fund scheme is financed by the Department for Transport. Under the scheme, LNR and sister company West Midlands Railway will invest in community projects across the network over the coming months.

If you're interested in applying for LNR's 'Your Community, Your Fund' 2022

funding or would like to find out more, visit <u>here</u>. To find out whether you're eligible to apply, please visit <u>here</u>.

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 <u>westmidlandsrailway.co.uk</u> or <u>londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk</u>

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Press Contact press.office@wmtrains.co.uk 0330 095 5626