

Community rail and rural development

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What is community rail?

- ❖ A grassroots movement
- ❖ Connecting communities and railways
- ❖ Enhancing access and use
- ❖ Helping communities have a voice
- ❖ Enabling communities to get the most from their railways and stations



57 community rail
partnerships



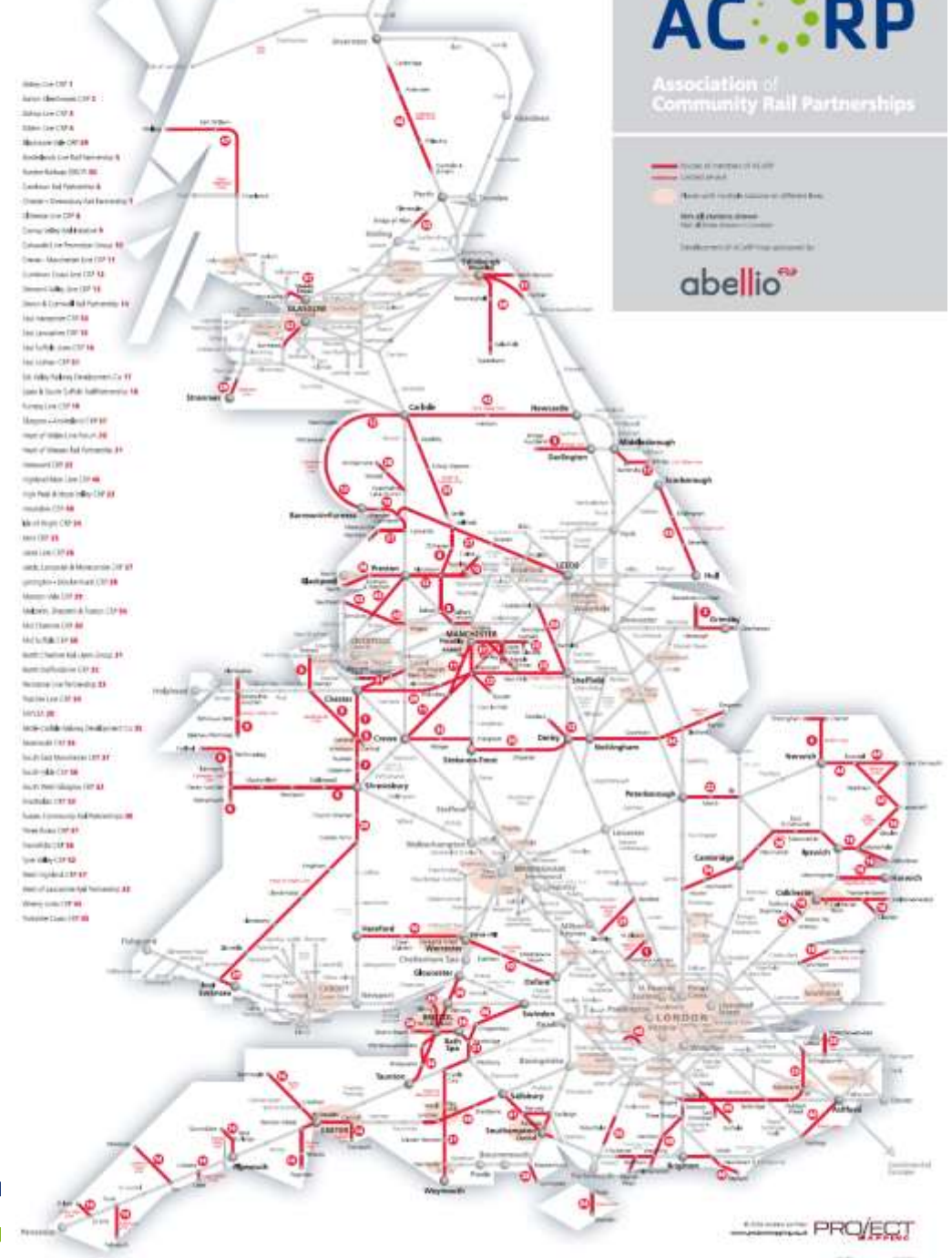
working along **80¹**



covering an estimated
of the rail network

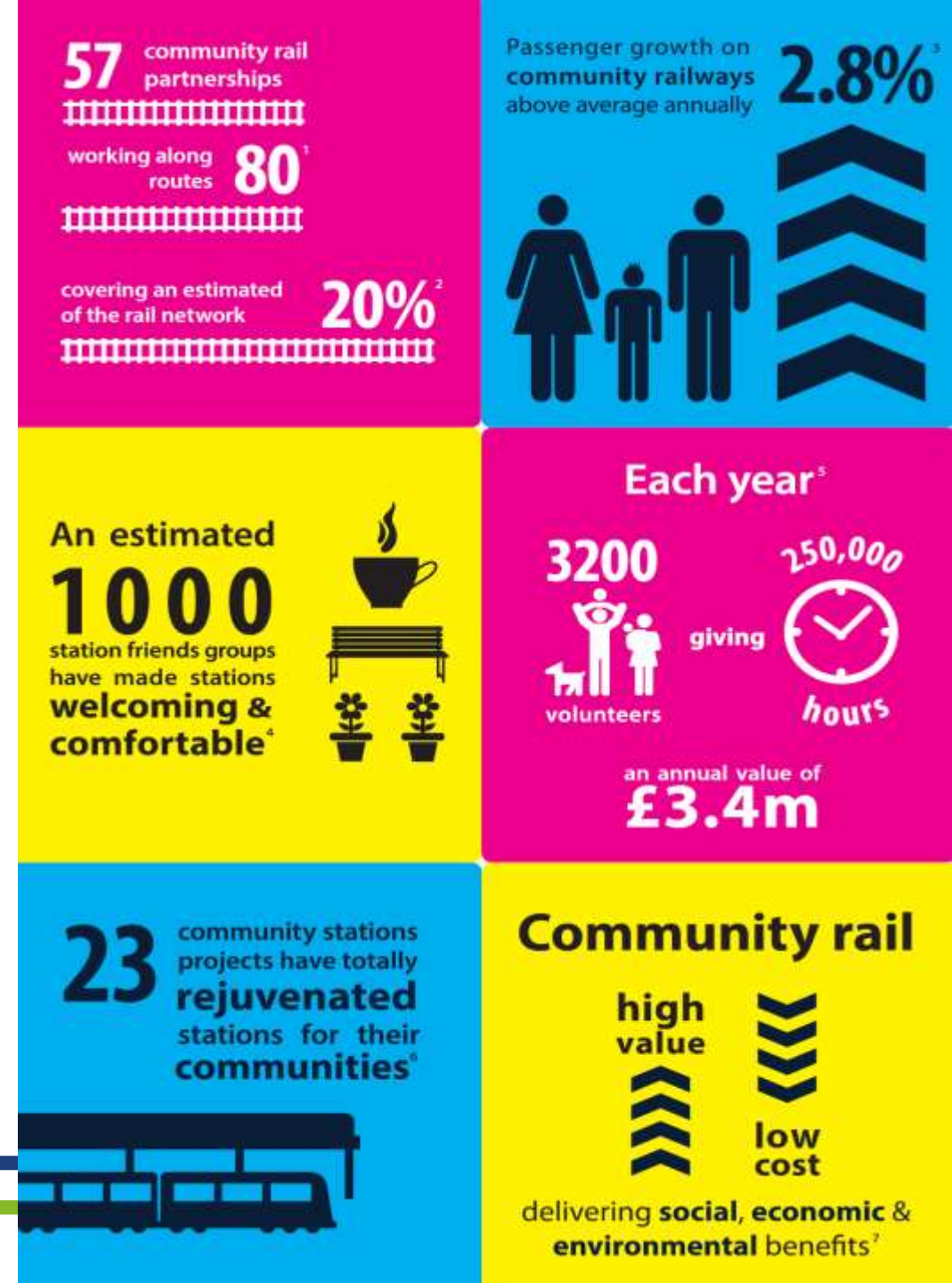


20%²



What has it achieved?

- ❖ Growth and interest in lines
- ❖ Sustainable mobility
- ❖ Volunteering
- ❖ Social inclusion
- ❖ Regeneration and development





Aldingbourne Trust &
Sussex CRP



Wickham Market Station



Tarka Line



WELCOME TO THE
AC RP

WELCOME TO THE
AC RP

AC RP
2013
Certificate of Recognition
University of Cambridge
10 November 2013
Honouring: Peter C. Smith

Our role

- ❖ Advising
- ❖ Supporting
- ❖ Empowering
- ❖ Championing



AC:RP
New life for local lines

Sponsored by Northern



**Communicating
Community Rail**

A research and guidance report by the
Association of Community Rail Partners

**Developing partnerships with
the tourism sector**

Advice for community rail partnerships and groups

Community Stations



*Innovative community uses
for railway stations and land*

Areas of opportunity

Partnering with third sector » wider engagement, representation & targeted social inclusion activities

Engaging young people » access to opportunity through sustainable, safe, active travel

Redeveloping disused station property » community hubs & facilities, social enterprise

Greater role in rail, transport & community development » attention to sustainable mobility needs of overlooked communities



DfT
consultation
themes:

Connecting people to
places and opportunities

Supporting communities,
diversity and inclusion

Supporting local and
regional economies

Suggesting innovative
ways to improve the way
the railway works

Our members' priorities

- ❖ Better stations and services, accessibility
- ❖ Engaging next generation and more diverse groups
- ❖ Interest in social inclusion, education and volunteering
- ❖ Resourcing, planning, evaluation



Delivering greater value for rural communities

- ❖ Greater understanding of social value of rail and community rail
- ❖ Resourcing and support
- ❖ Collaboration of rail industry – and wider!
- ❖ Respect for independence and position



Our recommendations

- ❖ Support, fund, empower community rail
- ❖ Remove barriers to community rail work
- ❖ Use community rail network to listen and understand community needs, especially among young and vulnerable
- ❖ Better linkages between rail and other sustainable/active modes
- ❖ Recognise role of rail (and transport!) in community development



Get in touch

Reports, info, case studies,
response to DfT consultation:

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*Happy to take
questions in the Q&A*