

JUNE 2020

Hello All

We hope you are keeping well and staying safe? In these unprecedented times, whilst we are not able to travel far, we thought we would bring some good news and updates to you about Bat & Ball Station.

- Station garden areas

Due to the current situation many of you will not be able to travel to Bat & Ball Station to see the lovely display of flowering shrubs and grasses in the garden area at the entrance to the station, so please see below an image of the area behind the ticket machine.

The planting scheme was designed by Jo Jemmison Landscape Design and planting was undertaken last autumn with assistance from a new group of garden volunteers. Many of the plants were funded by Southeastern, and lavender plants were supplied by The Hop Farm in Shoreham.

Sevenoaks Town Council would like to thank all the volunteers who helped plant the garden areas and keep them weeded, the Open Spaces team and caretaker for watering them!



The garden area at the entrance



Inside the booking hall

- Station building; community rooms and cafe

Bat & Ball Station community rooms and Café are currently closed, however we hope that they will be open again soon, if only for take away menu.

During this time Sevenoaks Town Council have taken advantage of the closure to enable some internal decorating to take place. Caretakers Derrick and Dave have been refurbishing the floors (see above image of the booking hall) during 'lockdown' plus there is some remedial work to be undertaken following the installation of the automatic door to the café.

- Restoration of Platform 1 shelter

In April, whilst the station and platform were very quiet, Network Rail carried out some refurbishment work to the shelter at Platform 1. These works and colours were at the request of Sevenoaks Town Council to match the refurbishment work of the station building which was completed in 2019.

The shelter is next to the new access, which opened in September 2019, through to the Bat & Ball Centre which is currently being refurbished and due to be completed by the end of the year.



Refurbished platform shelter. Images © Elliott Waters, Southeastern

- Bat & Ball Centre

Work continues at the new Bat & Ball Centre, formerly the Sevenoaks community Centre. The contractors continue to be on site working under public health guidelines and currently the construction is on time. We are starting to move to finishes now with plastering, exterior cladding and rendering starting in the last few weeks.



Exterior cladding being fitted

- **Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership (DVCRP)**

The steering group for the DVCRP have met once a month since April using Zoom meetings. An Activity Plan has been written and once the recruitment of a Rail Officer takes place they will start to deliver some of the initiatives on the plan, for example collaborations with the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme for walking maps and trails, and Kent CRP on future events and marketing campaigns. Finally, discussions are in progress to design and create a new website for the DVCRP so the local community can keep up to date with what is happening on and around their local station.

- **Southeastern funding**

The Department for Transport have awarded a new contract to Govia, for the continued operation of the Southeastern franchise, who will continue to operate under their existing ownership until October 2021. The good news is that the new contract includes a significant increase on available funds for Community Rail Partnerships, which has now increased to £200,000.

Southeastern is inviting individual and joint proposals from Community Rail Partnerships (Kent CRP, Sussex CRP and Darent Valley CRP) who already run projects on the Southeastern network for schemes to promote sustainable travel, bring together local communities and promote social wellbeing and economic development. Successful bids will include activity that meets one or more of the four key pillars of the Government's Community Rail Strategy:

1. Providing a voice for the community
2. Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel
3. Bringing communities together and supporting diversity and inclusion
4. Supporting social and economic development

The DVCRP are submitting their bid before the end of June deadline, to include:

- Salary for rail officer (19-month contract)
- Website similar to www.batandballstation.com
- Bespoke painting as Bat & Ball station for each station, for future promotion
- 6 murals, one for each station as per Network Rail scheme
- Feasibility Study Shoreham Station building
- Station signage

We will keep you updated on any other news or progress.



For more information about the getting involved in the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership or being a garden volunteer please email heo@sevenoakstown.gov.uk.