

Route Prospectus

For the line between Brockenhurst and Lymington Pier

The line between Brockenhurst and Lymington Pier (The Lymington Branch) is one of the routes listed in the DfT Community Rail Development Strategy. Pilot projects have started to demonstrate how the Community Rail Development approach can increase revenue, manage down costs and encourage greater community involvement in the local railway.

The keys measures of success will be

achieving locally set objectives such as reducing road congestion and increasing accessibility;
reducing the call on taxpayer's funds for the service;
implementing methods for reducing the net financial loss of Community Rail lines by increasing revenue and reducing costs where practicable.

This prospectus has been discussed with the County Councils, Local Councils and other local bodies and will formally be presented to the Community Rail Partnership when it has been established.

Designation of the line between Brockenhurst and Lymington Pier as a 'Community Rail line' is needed to progress the following:

reduce costs on the line by changes to regulatory arrangements (including the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement arrangements), working practices and operation
open up opportunities of alternative fares structures
Maintain the Slam Door MK1 'Heritage Units' on the route long term
Evaluate the feasibility of re-opening the station at Ampress Halt and investigate all timetable options
Recognise the location of the route within the New Forest and look for the opportunities this location and the New Forest area can provide
Work with Wightlink to improve through service and connections to/from the Isle of Wight
Look at Station Adoption opportunities

It is intended to build on the work already undertaken on the route including:

promotion of the line to raise its profile and increase patronage – this includes working with the local business community .
deepening co-operation with the ferry operators (plus mainland transport operators) to build through traffic
Heritage Line marketing by South West Trains
Designation is intended to be a permanent arrangement, but it can be reviewed periodically to assess whether the designation is still appropriate.

July 2007