



Kent Community Rail Partnership Press Release

For immediate release

Charing Station is adopted!

Charing railway station has been adopted by not one but two station adopters! Kent Community Rail Partnership, hosted by Sustrans, has been working with local schools and organisations to build support for the stations on the Kent Downs Line. On Monday 13 September Matt Fraser, Southeastern's Community Relations Manager, presented confirmation of station adoption letters to Susan Easun, on behalf of Charing Parish Council, and Jo Eglin, on behalf of Heath Farm School.



Matt presenting confirmation station adoption letters to Susan (left) and Jo (right) 13/9/21

Charing Parish Council has adopted the Ashford bound platform. This includes the station building, car park and surrounding land. Its initial plans include working with local community groups, such as the garden society, primary school and Scout group, to brighten up the station with hanging baskets, window boxes and planters. Pending future funding; artwork, walking/cycling map/info boards may follow.

Heath Farm School has adopted the London bound platform which includes the shelter and subject to Network Rail permission, will develop an outdoor learning space/community garden on the land adjacent to the platform.

This is the first station to be adopted on the Kent Downs Line since the Line was awarded to Kent Community Rail Partnership by Southeastern. There are other station adoptions in the planning stages at Harrietsham, Hollingbourne, Bearsted and East Malling.

Therese Hammond, Sustrans Lead Project Officer for Kent Downs Line said; "We are delighted with the first station adoption on the new Kent Downs Line. Congratulations Susan and Jo we look forward to supporting you to see the station improvements you're planning come to fruition. Thank you for your energy, creativity and resourcefulness to date. Also thank you to Southeastern for being our major funder and for enthusiastically supporting our activities."

If you wish to know more or participate in a station adoption please contact therese.hammond@sustrans.org.uk

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Notes to editors

The Kent Community Rail Partnership includes Kent County Council, Medway Unitary Authority, District and Parish Councils (along the Medway Valley, Kent Downs and Swale Rail lines), Southeastern, Network Rail and many valuable volunteers.

Community rail works with train operators, local authorities and other partners to involve local communities with their railways and stations, promoting sustainable travel, social inclusion and local development, and helping communities to have a voice in rail and transport development.

The Kent Community Rail Partnership is hosted by Sustrans, Charity No 326550. Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute. Join us on our journey. www.sustrans.org.uk

For further information on Sustrans' work please contact **Sustrans' press office:** 020 7780 7231 **e-mail:** press@sustrans.org.uk **or visit** www.sustrans.org.uk

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