New website promotes Hereward railway line

Coronavirus may have put the brakes on train travel for most of us, but a new website is giving people a taste of Fenland’s community railway line from the comfort of their home.

The Hereward Community Rail Partnership (CRP) has launched a new website at www.herewardcrp.org to promote the Hereward Line between Ely and Peterborough and its railway stations at Manea, March and Whittlesea.

The website gives viewers a chance to ‘explore the line’, and includes nearby attractions, activities and places to stay to help people plan a trip for when it is safe to travel again.

It also includes a travel advice section with train service updates, including the current reduced timetable of services for workers to get to and from their work.

Paul Nelson is chairman of the Hereward CRP, which is managed by Fenland District Council in partnership with train operators including Greater Anglia, Cross Country Trains and East Midlands Railway with support from the Community Rail Network and local organisations.

He said: “We may not be able to get out and about on the train at present, but the Hereward Line will be keen to welcome back day-trippers, holiday makers and regular commuters as soon as it’s safe to do so.

“In the meantime, the website can provide useful information on current services and help visitors closer to home and further afield to think about planning their trips for the future, when tourism and normal travel is possible again.”

Cllr Chris Seaton, Fenland District Council’s Portfolio Holder for Transport and Chairman of the Fenland Stations Regeneration Project, added: “It’s an exciting time for Fenland’s railway stations as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority-funded Fenland Stations Regeneration Project is still moving forward with planned improvements despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Most recently, new platform waiting shelters have been installed at Manea and Whittlesea stations and we’re currently preparing the preferred option for the redesign of Platform One buildings at March. With all the improvements that have already happened and are going ahead at Fenland’s stations, it’s only fitting that we have a fantastic website to showcase them and everything that is great about the Hereward Line.

“I’d like to thank all the Hereward CRP partners for making the new website possible, with special thanks to Cross Country Trains for contributing the additional funding towards it from its Community Fund.”

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For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226