

'The Wrangling', Blackburn

– a social performance case study

The project

During the construction of a new traction and maintenance depot at 'The Wrangling', Blackburn, Network Rail worked with Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) to tackle safety, trespass and anti-social behaviour in the area.

As part of this project, the partnership engaged with a local primary school, St Luke's, located 10 minutes' walk from the site. A programme was developed with the school through which the children learned about the development of the railway in their area, the history of the site, and rail safety. It was agreed that the school would visit the works site on a regular basis to view the building progress and to learn about the materials and processes of construction. An illuminated structure was also designed in partnership with the school and a local artist, known as 'The Wrangling' as a reminder of the history of the site, whilst also creating a nicer aesthetic.



In order to create a lasting legacy in this area, a new partnership is to be created between CRL and Northern, to allow the school to "adopt" a unit working from the new depot. The classes will monitor the unit's travels and mileage covered to link with various aspects of the curriculum.

The key benefits delivered

Benefit to society: Stronger partnerships have been forged between Network Rail, CRL and the local school which has enabled the development of the new build depot to support the curriculum. The children have gained a better understanding of the heritage of their railway, alongside the dangers that are associated with it.

Benefit to the business: Better relationships were forged with the local community through the re-development of what had been a derelict site and hot-spot for fly-tipping. Safety lessons were delivered to contribute to a reduction in the number of trespass and anti-social behaviour events at the site.

Lessons learned

- Consider the legacy of your project – how will the local community benefit from its implementation in the future?
- Working with external groups, such as Community Rail Partnerships, can develop stronger and more natural relations with local communities.

Who to contact for more information

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