



London Road Station Partnership

<http://londonrdstationpartnership.wordpress.com>
lrsp@hotmail.co.uk or elspeth_broadly@msn.com

'Seaside and Safety' Welcome Planters at London Road Station, Brighton

Funding application to Sussex Police Community Cashback, July 2013

- We are a self-managing volunteer group, registered as a Station Partnership with Southern Rail.
- We do not specifically work with young people so we have no explicit child protection policy.
- Though some of our members have CRB screening for work with children and vulnerable adults, as a volunteer group, we do not require this.
- We attach our Constitution.
- We adhere to Southern Railway's Health & Safety guidelines for Station Partnerships – all members sign up to these, and we have received safety briefings from Southern staff.
- As part of setting up the Station Partnership, we undertook a detailed risk assessment of our activities.
- As a Station Partnership, our members are covered by Southern's Public Liability Insurance at the station. As we have no employees, we have no Employer Liability Insurance
- Our Equal Opportunity Policy is included in our Constitution (point 3) attached.

SUMMARY from application form

Objectives: Building on our success in enhancing the environment at London Road Station (creating two gardens on waste land and participating in a successful anti-graffiti scheme), the London Road Station Partnership is now seeking funding to set up two planters at the station. This would enhance the public visibility of the Station Partnership and act as a focal point for promoting community crime awareness. This should 'encourage greater public participation in the prevention/solution of crime/ antisocial behaviour' and support 'measures designed to reduce the level and fear of crime'.

Incidence of crime at the station has already reduced since 2011 when we started our activities (see Appendix 1, BTP statistics). Through involving local people in taking care of the station, we believe we increase 'eyes on the street' and thus make the station less attractive to crime (see Kuo & Sullivan 2001: DOI: 10.1177/0013916501333002). Our regular presence at the station, particularly during times that it is unmanned, can also help to reduce fear of crime and promote confidence in street safety. This bid would enable us to maintain the momentum we have built up.

Project description: 1) Erect two 1m x 1m planters on the South station forecourt in Shaftesbury Place (see photo below), and plant with drought-resistant 'seaside' style plants, to act as a 'welcome' to station users and focal point for residents; 2) through associated open events (e.g. launch), raise awareness of crime prevention in the area. The station forecourt is managed by Southern Rail who have given agreement for the project (see Appendix 2, e-mail from Karen Barnes).

Benefits. We are a well-established station partnership with 10-15 active volunteers, supported by local residents who visit our gardens regularly to chat or contribute to community composting. The proposed project benefits 1) the active volunteers (mostly aged 60+) in providing a further focus for creative and horticultural skills, as well as benefitting direct neighbours in Shaftesbury Place (20 households), other local residents (the railway bridge is significant pedestrian thoroughfare) and station users through improvement to the external environment. It aims to demonstrate that the area is cared for, which in turn should allay fear of anti-social behaviour and deter minor crime.

Schedule. This project would be our 2014 season focus: we would canvass planting ideas and build further support during autumn/winter 2013-14, using our 'Big Dig' Open Day (September) and residents' association meetings, with opportunities to raise awareness about crime prevention. We would then erect and prepare the planters for planting in early spring 2014, culminating in a celebration event, probably in April 2014, depending on weather conditions. This project will link with improvements to Shaftesbury Place as part of B&H City Council's Local Sustainable Transport project (see below) and celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Brighton to Seaford railway line.

Partnerships. As a station partnership, we work closely with Southern Railway and Sussex Community Rail Partnership (SCRPP) on ways to enhance security at the station. Southern have contributed over £300 to the development of our gardens. We are already working closely with DRARA (Ditchling Rise and Area Residents' Association) and Brighton & Hove City Council on enhancing pedestrian and cycle access at London Road Station (£25K budget); the 'Seaside and Safety' Welcome Planters fit well with these plans. Through DRARA, we liaise regularly with our PCSO Bonnie Scovell on promoting crime prevention awareness. We also link with local businesses - in particular, A.A. Taylor Joinery whose business is directly opposite the station. Appendix 2 below gives supporting e-mails; see also supporting letter from SCRPP.

Funding. The funding being applied for covers the capital investment to set up the planters. We propose to cover planting and publicity from our own funds, including £100 from A.A. Taylor, and a forthcoming funding application to Association for Community Rail Partnerships (ACorp). As with our other projects, we are able to undertake on-going maintenance and planting fairly economically. We restock planting from own propagation; we maintain soil fertility with compost from our thriving community compost facility.

Potential problems: We are aware that planters can a) be abandoned due to demands of maintenance, and b) themselves attract anti-social behaviour. We already have experience of maintaining large planters at Preston Circus, and of erecting smaller public herb planters at London Road Station. In neither of these cases, have we experienced any significant anti-social behaviour and both projects have generated local enthusiasm. We have a strong committed team of volunteers living very nearby the station with the required horticultural skills (including plant propagation), we have already installed water butts and we have the support of the local neighbourhood.

We have selected heavy duty planters at waist height to dissuade anti-social behaviour, as well as to facilitate planting for older participants. The planters will be carefully secured by bolts to the forecourt. The planters are designed to minimise watering and investment in growing medium.

Contingency. Were the London Road Station Partnership to fold, the planters could be dismantled and offered to other station partnerships/community gardens. We are closely linked to many other such groups through Harvest Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, Brighton & Hove City in Bloom, RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood' and Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACORP).

'Shopping List'

2 x Instaplanta Standard Street Planters @ £399 + 20% VAT + estimated delivery (£20)	978	Sussex Police Community Cashback
Growing medium 0.6 m3 growing compost (e.g. Compost Direct Multipurpose compost) + sand/grit and soil enhancer	100	Sussex Police Community Cashback
2 x set of fixings for securing to ground (e.g. http://www.kedel.co.uk/fixings/ground-anchor-security-kits-for-outdoor-furniture.html)	72	Sussex Police Community Cashback
SUB TOTAL		£1150
Plants	200	A.A. Taylor LRSP own funds / ACORP
Signage small poster cases for display posters	50	LRSP own funds
Publicity etc. for events	50	LRSP own funds
Volunteer time @ £11.09 an hour X 40 hours	444	LRSP volunteers
TOTAL	£1894	



Location of the proposed planters, either side of station building, Shaftesbury Place

	Violence Against The Person	Offensive & Bladed Weapons	Sex Offences	Criminal Damage	Line of Route	Theft of Passenger Property	Motor Vehicle Theft (excl. cycle theft)	Cycle theft	Robbery	Burglary & Theft (Railway & Tenants)	Public Order	Fraud	Drug	Other	total
2008/09	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	16
2009/10	2	0	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	16
2010/11	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	12
2011/12	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
2012/13	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7

Appendix 1. Crimes recorded by British Transport Police relating to London Road Station. As presented to 'Safer Streets' group.

Appendix 2. Emails of support

1. E-mail from A. A. Taylor Joinery, adjacent business

andy (andy@aataylor.co.uk)

[Add to contacts](#)

17:35

To: 'elspeth broady'



From: **andy** (andy@aataylor.co.uk) This sender is in your [safe list](#).

Sent: 11 July 2013 17:35:45

To: 'elspeth broady' (elspeth_broady@msn.com)

Dear Elspeth

We have been happy to support the work of the London Road Station Partnership. The gardens they have created at the station adjacent to our premises) have enhanced the area and are appreciated by residents and visitors.

The Partnership is a very enthusiastic organisation and we would like to think that their presence contributes to deterring crime in the area.

Regards

Andy & Sue Taylor

2. E-mail from Bonnie Scovell, local PCSO

Andree.Scovell@sussex.pnn.police.uk (Andree.Scovell@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

[Add to contacts](#)

17:22

To: elspeth_broady@msn.com



From: **Andree.Scovell@sussex.pnn.police.uk** This sender is in your [safe list](#).

Sent: 11 July 2013 17:22:36

To: elspeth_broady@msn.com

I am happy to support the Seaside Welcome Planters project, proposed by the London Road Station Partnership.

The partnership report regularly to the Ditchling Rise and Area Residents' Association meetings, which I attend, and I often meet up with the members of the working group in and around the station.

Their activities have been very positive for the local area, giving residents a sense of pride in their station and increasing regular presence in the area, contributing no doubt to a greater sense of security and to the reduction of crime. The proposed project will strengthen their visibility and build on what they have already achieved.
Bonnie

Andree Scovell
Police Community Support Officer 29349
Neighbourhood Policing Team - North Laines
Tel: 101 Ext: 50418 Mobile 07717 785514

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3. Email from Karen Barnes, Southern Railway

- London Road Station Partnership

Barnes, Karen

08:48

To: lrsp@hotmail.co.uk

Cc: elspeth broady, Bigsby, Paul, Sam Bryant

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From: **Barnes, Karen** (Karen.Barnes@southernrailway.com) This sender is in your [contact list](#).

Sent: 12 July 2013 08:48:35

To: lrsp@hotmail.co.uk (lrsp@hotmail.co.uk)

Cc: elspeth broady (elspeth_broady@msn.com); Bigsby, Paul
(Paul.Bigsby@southernrailway.com); Sam Bryant (sam@sussexcrp.org)

Southern Railway is very pleased to support the London Road Station Partnership Seaside Welcome Planters project.

We have been very impressed with the partnership's work since their inception in 2011 in developing community involvement at the station and enhancing the local environment. We believe this has contributed directly to the reduction in the incidence of crime at the station, and the positive response of the local community.

I confirm that members of the London Road Station Partnership are covered by Public Liability Insurance while working in and around the station. They adhere to clear health and safety guidelines, set up by Southern, and have completed a satisfactory risk assessment.

Many Thanks

Karen Barnes

Customer Experience Manager

East Coast Way

Tel: 07969648215

4. Letter from Chris Sevink, Chair of Ditchling Rise and Area Residents' Association

Grant Application for Planters at London Road Station

Ditchling Rise and Area Residents Association have consulted their Committee Members and would very strongly like to support the application of the London Road Station Partnership for funding of planters at the Station.

The Residents Association does this in the belief that a 'cared for' public environment leads to greater enjoyment of residents and visitors of a healthy, sustainable and safer environment.

The London Road Station Partnership has shown that their commitment to achieving positive outcomes is exceptional. The creation of London Road Station vegetable and flower gardens on Station wasteland, the maintenance of planters at Preston Circus and the maintenance of the footbridge in keeping it graffiti free, has led to many positive comments from visitors and residents alike, who give the impression that people feel safer and that station crime is reduced.

This further activity of setting up and developing planters at the Station would very positively contribute to a continued development of the Station area.

The Residents Association often works in cooperation with Brighton and Hove City Council and is currently engaged in work to further enhance the wider area around the Station by additional tree planting, way marking, safe cycle storage, footbridge improvements for easier cycle crossing and considering Shaftesbury Place layout enhancements for safer pedestrian and cycle use.

The proposed inclusion of planters by the London Road Station Partnership would greatly support and complement the activities of the Residents Association and I would like to commend their application for funding to you.

Yours faithfully

Chris Sevink

Chair, Ditchling Rise and Area Residents Association

sevink@msn.com

07758 498413

5. Supporting letter from Sussex Community Rail Partnership: see separate file.