

Train Station Renovation

- EF travelled to Wellington Station to meet Faye Easton, who is Head of Stakeholder & Community for West Midlands Railway. We had a look at a building that is undergoing renovation, which she thinks is similar to our own at Henley then a building that had already undergone renovation and was being used as a commercial and community property. SEE PHOTOS.
- EF also to visit a further two stations in the near future to see what else can be achieved (Great Malvern and Ridgmont).

What happens next?

- We need to get the keys to look over the buildings - this is currently being arranged between EF and Paul Webster, Head of Operation for The Association of Community Rail Partnerships - dates to be confirmed for other councillors to join us
- The JPC needs to agree what they'd like once all the ideas have been considered. Once that's determined we (SLPG & JPC) can then write up a business case with help from Association of Community Rail Partnerships - ACoRP).
- We then put it to West Midlands Railway Ltd to bid for funding, at that point if WMR support the bid and indicate they will contribute then we (incl WMR) will also bid for additional funding that is available from other national/regional sources.
- In terms of forming a Station Adoption Group, which would be the first step in securing an organisation to take charge, we need to talk to Faye Easton when we have discussed it, to get those formalities going.
- The link to becoming an ACoRP member is here - <https://communityrail.org.uk/join-us/station-adopters-small-groups/>
- We would join as a Station Adoption group, however if there is a serious prospect of the station property being used as a community hub in the future then the Community Station category would be more appropriate. We just need an organisation name who are adopting the station (which can be an existing group such as the Parish council) and to know that they have had a railway safety briefing from WMR. There is a slight difference in the membership fee (£80 vs £25) but funding available is £2500 vs £1000.