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Makeover for Marston Vale Line Trains

Trains operating on the Marston Vale Line (Bletchley - Bedford) have been given an exciting new look thanks to the Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership. A special vinyl has been installed on the outside of two of the trains to celebrate the 175th anniversary year of the Line and promote Greensand Country, an area of special landscape character through which it runs.

The graphics were designed by Click Creative Ltd. & installed by Stewart Signs Ltd, and can be enjoyed by rail passengers and the local community alike for the next twelve months.

The vinyls were launched at an event at Bletchley Station and were funded

by the Department for Transport Community Rail Development Fund (administered by Community Rail Network), Greensand Country Landscape Partnership, East Midlands Railway and Marston Vale CRP.

Stephen Sleight, Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership Officer, said "I'm delighted Marston Vale CRP is one of the first in the country to design vinyls for the trains operating on its line. We are very proud of our former London Underground trains and these new liveries with their eye-catching design really help to provide further local identity and a sense of place. My thanks to all those who have funded the project and Abellio Group for their role in co-ordination".

Tim Bellenger, London Northwestern Railway Head of Stakeholder & Community, said "We are pleased to support this project, which marks a significant milestone for the Marston Vale Line. Community Rail has a key role to play in attracting passengers to enjoy the beautiful countryside across our network as life begins to return to normal after the pandemic."

David Hopkins, Greensand Country Landscape Partnership Board Member added "We are proud to have been involved in this train wrap; which depicts the view from Ampthill Great Park across Greensand Country. We're very pleased that for the next 12 months everyone travelling on these trains will be able to experience just a snapshot of the wonderful landscape".

Paul Webster, Community Rail Network Support and Development Manager said "Using the railway network to visit Britain's stunning scenic landscapes, discover historic sites and to connect with walking and cycling activities is such a great and sustainable way to travel.

Through the Community Rail Development Fund we are pleased to support this innovative way to share this message and inspire more people to take the train through Greensand Country and stop off at the stations along the Marston Vale line in this special 175th anniversary year ."

Donna Adams, East Midlands Railway Community Engagement Manager, added "We were delighted that EMR's Community Development Fund has been able to support this project and the Community Rail Partnership. It's important to mark this anniversary so that we can continue to connect the communities to the railway. Additionally sharing the history, as well as promoting all the hidden gems along the route for all to enjoy."

For further information please contact Stephen Sleight, Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership, c/o Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity on 01234 832645, e-mail stephens@bedsrcc.org.uk.

About West Midlands Trains

For further information on this release, email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast Main Line to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street and Birmingham Snow Hill.

For more information on these services visit westmidlandsrailway.co.uk or londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

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