



# *Network Rail Community Scheme*

# Community Scheme – What's that?

So it's Network Rail's answer to station adoption?

Yes, but it's not 'station' and it's not 'adoption'



# Station Adoption or Community Scheme?



Train Operator's lease  
area = Station Adoption

Network Rail managed  
land = Community Scheme

# Community Scheme

- More hazardous environment than public areas of a station
- No resource for Network Rail to manage volunteers, so...
- Volunteers form a group and manage themselves, through...
- A 'Licence' agreement with Network Rail
- Specified activities: e.g. "maintaining a garden", "clearing litter", "removing graffiti"
- Specified scheme area *and* safe access route(s)
- Power tools, spraying, under-16s etc need specific agreement
- Safety briefing before volunteers start work

# *Has it worked?*

- 40 schemes so far, including
- 2 disused branch lines
- 4 disused platforms
- a wildflower meadow
- a crossing-keepers' hut
- a subway
- a botanic garden
- around 400 volunteers

# Why have it?



- Most railway land is outside station lease
- ‘Unofficial’ schemes are vulnerable (e.g. West Dulwich)
- Consistent approach throughout the network
- ‘Official’ process reassures industry people

# *How does it work?*

- Group carries out its own risk assessment then signs licence agreement on behalf of its members
- ‘One-Off’ scheme:
  - Usually one or two days
  - People turn up on the day
  - Network Rail provides safety brief and supervises
- ‘Long-Term’ scheme
  - Annually renewable agreement
  - Group members safety briefed then work unsupervised
  - May need permanent fence and/or lockable gate

# *This year's Must-Have Accessories*



# Publicising the Schemes



- Search 'Community Schemes' on [www.networkrail.co.uk](http://www.networkrail.co.uk)
- A chance for groups to tell us all about their schemes
- Here are just some of them....

# A canal (Causeland)



# *An embankment (Homerton)*



# *Half a station (March)*



# *Disused platform (Chandlers Ford)*



# *Even small buildings*



# A community scheme on a station??



# Where next?



- 16 schemes in the pipeline
- 25-30 proposals – more all the time
- May include this wagon!
- And.....

# Wildlife Gardens?



- Wild flowers suit poor soil
- Most sites already have wildlife
- Less hard work than a conventional garden
- Railways are ideal wildlife corridors



Thank you!