

## **Padgate Station Update 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

### **The Story so far:-**

**We now have one point of contact at the station (Vicky Cropper) who deals on our behalf with the numerous departments and companies under the Network Rail banner and has been a godsend.**

The station & area is now covered by regular LRA "Litter picks" on a monthly basis

The station has been painted

The car park has been cleared to give extra parking room (this involved over 25 local volunteers giving up a full day (the hottest day of the year!!) along with help from Carillion Rail, a total of over 40 people for a full 7 hour day.

The surrounding area has been somewhat cut back, but is a work in progress (see later)

Announcement speakers have been fitted to both platforms

Electronic information signs have also been fitted

The platforms have been cleaned

New waste paper bins have been fitted

Brighter lights have also been installed

Up to now over 300 volunteer man hours have been put into the project by LRA, with both physical activities and attending meeting etc, with many more to come I am sure !!

### **Going Forward:-**

LRA has been given permission to put up artwork on the boarded up windows.

An artist has been commissioned

The materials (Extreme Medite Tricoya) has been sourced; this is a completely waterproof product with a guarantee of 50 years without warping etc.

The 3D artwork will be on these sheets with a special sealant against vandalism

We have engaged the services of a joiner to cut each sheet exactly to fit the windows we are covering (all are slightly different) and need cutting to match before being delivered to the art studio in Cadishead.

The project is scheduled to be finalised by the end of May & the actual artwork will reflect the station & its close ties to RAF Padgate over the years & will depict in 3D a Station Master, ticket office, cleaner & a waiting room with people both in "civvies" and RAF uniform.

Money to cover the £2000 + cost of this project has been raised by LRA including grants from WBC & Northern Rail, a big thank you to those helping complete the immense application forms and submitting & presenting them in person to the relevant Council & Northern Rail committees to achieve our objectives.

The disused shelter on the westbound platform is to be removed & a "Bus Stop" type shelter is to be built as a replacement.

A developer has secured planning permission to develop the "Millmans" site on the southern side of the station with houses and flats, their perimeter fence will go the full length of the station so will drastically improve the look of the westbound platform & the outlook in general, a much nicer welcome to Longbarn & Padgate

It is hoped that there will be a footpath through the houses from the station to Green lane (to be confirmed) where plans are being put in place to create a "bus turnaround" facility ,

this means that the buses in both directions will call at the station rather than passengers having to hike over long distances, many times with luggage to the nearest bus stop, don't forget the station has direct connections to Manchester Airport & to a bus shuttle service both to & from the nearest station to Liverpool Airport

Ticket machines are to be installed on both platforms

CCTV is to be installed to help with security & vandalism.

Better signage is also to be installed

The main station building is to be refurbished by Northern Rail at their expense to be let for local businesses, LRA has secured the interest from four local businesses to occupy & run from this property & they are all very keen moving forward.

On refurbishment the artwork will be taken inside & displayed in the building going on show as part of the decor with other numerous photographs & information of both the station, Padgate & the RAF camp, to become a photographic museum.

The trees surrounding the car park are to be levelled to open up the whole area

Northern Rail are looking into the feasibility of having a train stop on a more regular basis than the hourly one each way at present.

The latest footfall figures available are for 2015 where approx 133,000 persons bought tickets either to or from Padgate, with the ticket machines now being installed perhaps the "free" route to Birchwood & Warrington Central will be curtailed thus increasing the footfall in the future

The entire project is aimed to making the station & the surrounding area back into a community asset & to enhance the area considerably

Please bear in mind all this will not happen overnight, but the firm plans are in place !!

Any questions or queries please direct them to Bob Mclaughlin at LRA, if he doesn't have the answer he will do his utmost to find out.