

Award Fosters Better Access to and from Trains

Rail for Herefordshire, PO Box 299, Hereford, HR1 2YE. E-mail: Railfh@aol.com



Hereford Station: in need of information about the city

Rail for Herefordshire¹, a campaigning group run entirely by volunteers, has won £8,130 from the ‘Awards for All’ lottery fund.

The aim is to use the grant to improve accessibility by public transport in Herefordshire.

It will enable the group to put up large posters in advertising spots at Hereford, Leominster and Colwall stations² for a year.

“This will be a great help to getting rail used and appreciated more,”

says Chair of Rail for Herefordshire, Councillor Gerald Dawe.

“At the moment, people stumble out of Hereford station, into Morrison’s car park, not even knowing where the historic city centre is. We felt something should be done to help them.”

The poster design will change four times a year. It will have directions to immediate tourist attractions, information on bus connections, and about how to travel further from the station to visit significant destinations, as well as news items and information about the rail group.

“The grant will also allow us to print and distribute for free, two further newsletters during the year. Our newsletter has already become famous for up to the minute, no nonsense, hints about rail travel in the region.”

The grant will also enable Rail for Herefordshire’s tradition of public meetings with expert speakers from the rail industry, to continue.

“We have already achieved a lot, for a group of volunteers. We have had excellent briefings from Arriva, Central and First Great Western; hourly train services from Leominster are now the norm; and Herefordshire Council with Arriva are finally about to do something about the station frontage. This grant will pay for an expert on re-opening lines in Wales to speak to us early next year, which we hope will attract people involved in the Local Development Plan. Our aim is to build the future Hereford around train infrastructure rather than road”

“However,”

continues Dawe,

“The grant in itself is not enough: We need more members³ to help our efforts in battling for rail. Please see our website www.railforherefordshire.org.uk or come along to the Devereux room, at the Green Dragon Hotel, the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 p.m., and lend us your support.”

Notes:

¹ Rail for Herefordshire is a pressure group and voice for rail users in the County. Set up in 1999 (see www.RailForHerefordshire.org.uk), it has about 80 members, and is run entirely by volunteers. It exists to protect and promote rail services in Herefordshire

² Ledbury station has been left out since it already has an excellent, on station information service

³ Send £8.00 for annual membership to: David Plowman, PO Box 299, Hereford, HR1 2YE.