FRIENDS OF CHIPPENHAM STATION

PROJECTS 2021

Store/Planters

We are hoping to use the small building at the east end of the disused platform. If we are to install and maintain planters we will need room to store tools, compost etc.



D. E. Long



D. E. Long

Telephone box

We have funds in place to acquire the old red phone box. We will then restore and re-purpose it as a book exchange or similar community use.



D. E. Long



D. E. Long

Brunel's office

Currently this is in use as a store for APCOA who manage the car parking. We would like to bring this historic (and listed) building into community use.



D. E. Long



D. E. Long

Weighbridge and office

This historical building is in urgent need of renovation. Scaffolding has been erected recently to support the structure. Negotiations are in hand for Network Rail to re-purchase the property from The Arch Company. Led by Transwilts CIC, grants could be sought to restore the property and use it for the community.



D. E. Long



D. E. Long

This picture was taken in 2020 before the scaffolding was erected. The scaffolding is shown in the Now and Then section.



D. E. Long

The weighbridge and scales are both still there although the mechanism is not working.



D. E. Long

Defibrillator

We have obtained funds, through Transwilts CIC, to provide a publicly accessible defibrillator at the station. There is one at the Rotary Hall, Station Hill so we decided ours would be better placed on the north side. Network Rail is currently providing a third lift at the north end of the new footbridge and our defibrillator will be sited in this area.



D. E. Long

Promotion

As part of our aims to promote use of the station and sustainable transport we carried out a passenger survey in 2019. This revealed a 50:50 split in those using the north and south accesses. We have about 2m passengers per year (pre-Covid) so 1m were using the unsatisfactory access via Old Road and Union Road. With this knowledge the case for highway improvements was made and we are grateful that Wiltshire Council recently carried out improvement works here.

We have an excellent east-west service but, in conjunction with Transwilts CIC, we campaign for a better north-south service.

Wiltshire Council advocates public transport in the A350 corridor using the highway system - bus, not rail.

BUT … from Chippenham the train takes 9 mins to Melksham; 18 mins and 1 stop to Trowbridge; 26 mins and 2 stops to Westbury. Westbury to Salisbury takes 29 mins so with good connections at Westbury we could achieve really efficient, sustainable north-south travel in the county.

We do try to spread the word....