

Welcome to the first bulletin of the Friends of Walkden Station, the community group which campaigns for improvements to services and facilities at Walkden railway station.

Our First 6 Months

It's been a busy 6 months for the FOWS since we were founded in February this year. We've established the group, learnt a great deal about the complicated way the station's services are managed, and forged relationships with the various stakeholders involved. You can find a simple guide to "who does what" at the station inside this bulletin to give you an idea of each organisation's responsibilities.

With many bodies involved it can sometimes seem a slow process to get changes made, but FOWS believes that with Northern Rail and GMPTÉ we have partners who share our desire to see the station fulfil its potential.

Our Campaigns

Also in this bulletin you can find a quick summary of some of our "campaigns" for station improvements - although we've only been around for 6 months we already have a long "shopping list" of areas where improvements are sorely needed.

For The Latest News

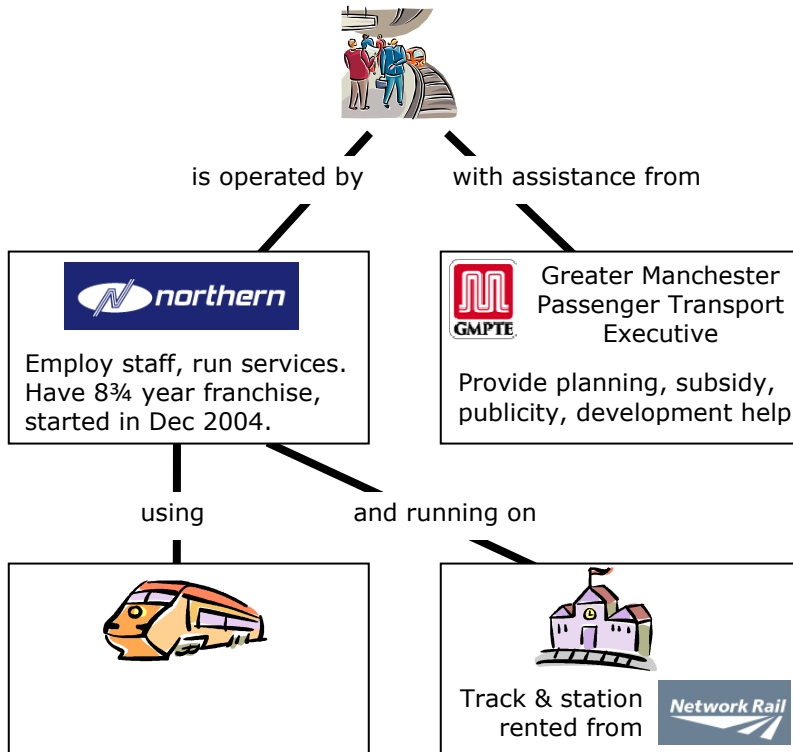
Please visit our website and weblog at the addresses below and get the latest information on FOWS activities:

Website: www.walkdenstation.org.uk
Weblog: walkdenstation.wordpress.com

Thank you for your interest in FOWS – with your support we believe we can make Walkden station a dramatically better place !

Who Does What at Walkden Station ?

Your train service at Walkden ...



Other key players include ...

- **ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnership):** provides national support for volunteer groups such as FOWS.
- **Department of Transport:** government department responsible for awarding franchises, national investment, and providing safe and efficient public transport.
- **Salford City Council:** along with 9 other councils in the Greater Manchester area fund, and set objectives for, GMPT.
- **Passenger Focus:** Funded by DoT, the national independent rail consumer "watchdog"

Walkden Station Issues

The last year has seen some very welcome improvements from Northern Rail - better reliability, punctuality, and larger, more comfortable trains on more services. However, as any regular user of the station knows there's still a long way to go before using Walkden station is the safe, comfortable, accessible experience for all that it ought to be.

Here are a number of issues which we are already campaigning for, please let us know if your top concerns aren't listed here:

- **Security** – in the evening the station can be a frightening place with no on-site staff or security cameras to monitor the platforms. Gangs of youths use the station as a drinking venue in the evenings. FOWS believe the installation of CCTV cameras is essential;
- **Sunday Services** – with more shops and businesses than ever opening their doors on a Sunday, FOWS believes there is strong demand for re-instating Sunday train services;
- **Platform Height** – the large gap between platform height and train doorways is a major safety concern and barrier to many people wishing to use the station;
- **Over-crowding** – finding a seat is virtually impossible for rush-hour commuters. Re-opening the disused section of platform could allow longer "Atherton Express" services to call at Walkden and double the number of services in the morning peak !
- **Passenger Information** – there is no tannoy system, leaving passengers ignorant of delayed or cancelled services.
- **Car Parking** – without a station car park the area around the station is now dangerously congested by parked cars. There should be much better provision for travellers wishing to leave their car and catch the train from Walkden;
- **A Pedestrian Crossing** is needed outside the station;
- **Disabled Access** – there is no disabled access to the station;
- **Litter** and Trackside Rubbish;
- **Extended Ticket Office Hours**

How Can I Help ?

If you're concerned about the state of the station and would like to help improve things, there are a number of ways in which you can help:

- **Write to your local councillor** expressing your concerns. We are fortunate to enjoy the support of Worsley MP Barbara Keeley and several Salford City councillors from both Conservative and Labour parties. However, there are still councillors who haven't offered us support and are probably unaware of the improvements that are needed. By sharing your concerns with councillors you will help raise awareness of the stations needs which may ultimately lift the station up Salford and GMPTE's list of priorities.
- **Donate gardening supplies to our appeal.** We are shortly going to commence volunteer work to plant flower beds and planters on the platform. We have a small amount of funding from Salford's Community Committee, but need more supplies of plants, shrubs, soil, planters to really fill the place with colour. Please contact us by emailing friends@walkdenstation.org.uk or calling 07910 768 606 if you think you can help. Thank you !