



PRESS RELEASE

**Sevenoaks Town Council's Regeneration of Bat & Ball area
continues even during COVID 19**

In 2014 Sevenoaks Town Council set out an ambitious regeneration plan for the Bat & Ball area by investing in community facilities. This was further strengthened by the Northern Masterplan and draft Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Town Council wanted these initiatives to encourage investment into the local area and it also committed to undertaking projects itself to this aim.

This started with the multi award winning refurbishment of the Bat & Ball Station building which immediately improved the local area including reduction of crime and has already become a much-loved local venue.

The refurbishment of the station has been continued to the other side of the platform with Network Rail recently completing works to the shelter on Platform 1.



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Platform 1 shelter



The refurbishment of the Bat & Ball Station led to the initiative of the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership (DVCRP). The DVCRP links six train stations and their local communities from Swanley to Sevenoaks. The ideas are to share resources and promotions and encourage visitors. Prior to COVID 19 good interest had been generated from national tour operators for this new Scenic Line.



DARENT VALLEY

COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

In September 2019 Sevenoaks Town Council completed the construction of a new ramp access and this was formally opened by the Mayor and MP. Bat & Ball Station was opened in 1862, however this is the first time that passengers will be able to access Platform 1 directly.

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This will be of help to those with mobility needs and parents with buggies. In the first two months since it opened 20% of passengers were using the new access.



The new Bat & Ball Centre due to open in December 2020 is currently under construction and continuing even during COVID 19 restrictions, albeit more slowly than its original timetable due to problems with delivery and complying with public health guidelines.



Linda Larter MBE
Chief Executive / Town Clerk
28th April 2020