

# Mallaig to Crianlarich

19 stations

Membership: Community councils,  
local businesses and third-sector organisations



Mission: Devise and implement initiatives to increase the user friendliness & accessibility of local stations and rail services.

*Hege Hernæs, Glenfinnan*

# Survey of would-be passengers: What would make a more user friendly railway?



- Regular trains *“There are never any trains at the times I need to travel.”*
- Reliable services *“Just for the train to run when it’s supposed to!”*

**“No thanks – I’ve given up on the railway.”**





# Please, can we have a Line Review?



Humza Yousaf: “I note with interest your proposition to initiate a West Highland Review Group [...]. I will make sure that the [necessary] information is available to me before the HITRANS Rail Stakeholder Conference on 29 January so that I may be able to decide on the best course of action.”

# Community information at Westie stations



©Felicity Nightingale

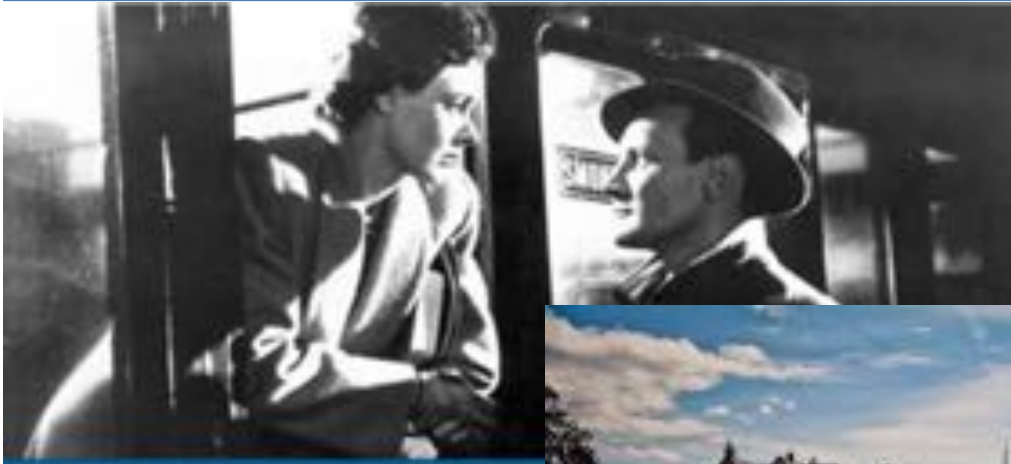
# Brief Encounters on the West Highland Line



1. Take a classic play that features a railway setting ...



# Brief Encounters on the West Highland Line

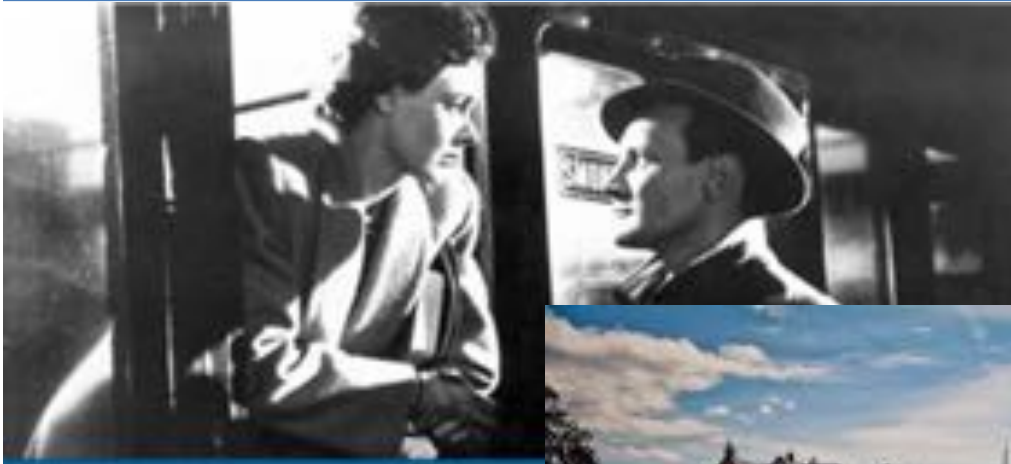


1. Take a classic play that features a station tearoom setting ...



2. Find a scenic railway line with numerous station tearooms ...

# Brief Encounters on the West Highland Line



1. Take a classic play that features a station tearoom setting ...



2. Conjure up a scenic railway line with numerous station tearooms ...



3. Then commission a group of young, exciting local performing artists ...

# Brief Encounters on the West Highland Line



*Crianlarich*  
*Rannoch*  
*Corrour*  
*Glenfinnan*  
*Lochailort*  
*Arisaig*

Aim: to reinforce the potential and importance of the railway station as a community and cultural hub.

Audiences: local people from the various communities along the route.

Intention: to build a sense of connectivity between these lineside communities.

Production company: Iron Road Collective

Partnership funding: Foundation Scotland & Awards for All – decision in February

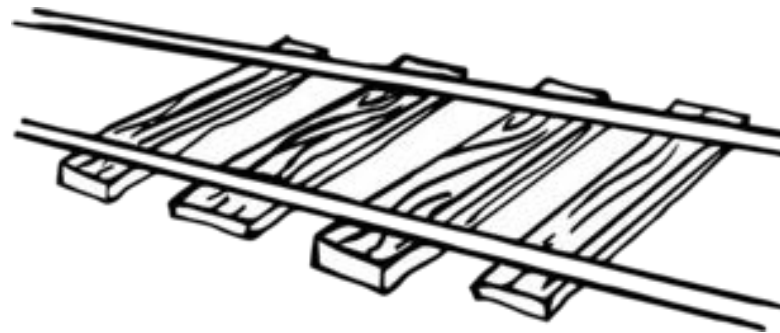
Six performances: April 2018



Where next?



The Line for Walking



The Line for Dining

# Ambition and vision: building community cohesion

a real-life Norwegian example



## THE SUMMER TRAIN 2017



NRK



BANE NOR



Customised train, mixing passenger and freight stock  
Stop-off points: 174 rural railway stations  
Planning period: 2 years  
Live broadcasts: 350 over a 2-month period  
Viewers: 3.8 million (total population 5 million)

### Achievement:

The railway network was used to shine a spotlight on people, their lives and their places. Diverse local identities celebrated as parts of the overall national identity.