

## Moving ahead March Street Pride



*Together with local volunteers we have cleared rubbish and large areas of buddleia from the disused half of March station, which a group of local people want to lease as a heritage centre.*

*Following an approach by Fenland District Council volunteers from March Street Pride, workers from Cambridgeshire Community Payback scheme and our own staff cleared several skiploads of rubbish and cut down large areas of buddleia, which had covered the disused platforms and buildings at March station since they were closed to the public in the 1970s.*

Over four Saturdays between July 2009 and March 2010 around a dozen volunteers came along on each day, plus a similar number of Community Payback people, as well as our own staff.

We erected safety fences, provided supervision, safety briefings, safety gloves and 'high-vis' tabards to the volunteers, and our staff from Ely maintenance depot operated a shredder to cope with the large volume of vegetation. Fenland District Council took

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Case study

responsibility for the volunteers, carrying out a risk assessment and signing an agreement with us. Their 'Street Pride Coordinator', was the inspiration for the scheme and motivated everyone throughout.

Cambridgeshire Probation Service provided workers to tackle the heavier rubbish and vegetation, and National Express provided access and allowed the group to use rooms in the station. Carillion lent temporary fencing and allowed access through their nearby yard.

The group would like to lease the old station buildings and platforms as a heritage centre, so we are working on the best way to make this happen.

The scheme was a partnership between Network Rail, Fenland District Council, the Probation Service, train operator National Express East Anglia and railway contractor Carillion.

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