



PRESS INFORMATION

Date: 17th November 2008

WORK ON THE LINE!

Contractors move onto site for the Leicester North station canopy

The Great Central Railway is getting ready to 'raise the roof' at it's Leicester North terminus. A new canopy is being built over the platform to help keep passengers dry.

It's part of a programme of works at the station which has seen new fencing put up and other security improvements.

"It's a big step forward for the Great Central Railway" said project co-ordinator Tony Sparks. **"Leicester North station is being slowly developed, but the addition of the canopy will make it a much more inviting place to visit. Not only will the station look more attractive, but passengers will have more space to shelter in bad weather while they wait for trains. The canopy will also mean we can hold small events on the platform undercover."**

The work is being split into two phases. Phase one, which has started today (Monday 17th November) will cost just short of £35,000. It covers the erection of heritage style steel work and roof supports in front of the station building. This work has been funded through a recent section 1.06 planning grant to the Great Central Railway following building work on a new housing estate close to the station.

Phase two of the work will cost an additional £30,000 to complete the roof and provide a glass roof and a traditional GCR wooden valance around the canopy edge. The railway is actively seeking grant funding for the second phase which will go ahead as soon as possible.

Leicester North station was opened in 1991 as part of a southern extension for the railway. The station building was added in the year 2000. It is built just to the south of the original 1899 built GCR station at Belgrave and Birstall.

Leicester North isn't the only location for work on the line. Recently renovation work has been carried out at Quorn signal box. The barge boards have been replaced, the roof repaired and a new cast iron stove pipe fitted into place. This was paid for by the railway's supporting charity, The David Clarke Railway Trust. Plans are being progressed for important renovation work at Loughborough Central signal box.

"Visitor's who ride on our Santa Specials should be able to see the work in progress at Leicester North station, concluded Tony, While it won't be ready to keep the rain off this year, hopefully by 2009 the job will be finished, providing we can find the phase two funding."

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