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The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) has released its findings and recommendations after a tanker train derailment and fire which took place in Llangennech on 26 August 2020.

The derailment led to fuel spillage, a fire, environmental damage and the evacuation of nearby homes.

RAIB said the industry had to do better in the safe maintenance of freight wagons, and added it was time

freight wagon maintenance practices were subject to careful examination.

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Leading lights from industry and academia have joined an East West Rail Company (EWR) advisory group to aid development of the major rail project between Oxford and East Anglia.

An article on New Civil Engineer says the group is chaired by Stratospheric Platform chief executive Richard Deakin and features seven leaders in the fields of customer experience, civil and mechanical engineering, environment, disability and accessibility, digital technology and rail.

The panel's remit is to look for and encourage ideas that drive EWR's ambition of having communities, customers and the environment at the core of the project. The advisory group aims to both inspire and challenge the EWR team during the design and development of the rail link.

Work to stop flooding on the West Coast main line between Rugby and Milton Keynes has now finished.

The route has reopened after the £2 million project saw a nine-day closure put in place to improve four kilometres of railway.

This involved the installation of drainage channels and ballast being cleaned, using a specialised train, to prevent rain causing floods.

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Hard working Northern Rail employees cleaned the rail operator's carriages almost one million times in 2021.

The article in the Yorkshire Evening Post says a total of 952,514 cleans were carried out – the equivalent of cleaning one carriage at least three times every day.

The rail operator has more than 600 dedicated cleaning staff working on trains and at stations with a particular focus on touch points such as tables, buttons, and toilets.

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Photo credit: Network Rail