

# West Somerset Railway

## Stakeholders 25 Feb 2017 Review



West Somerset Railway plc

# Admin



West Somerset Railway plc

# Agenda & Introduction

1. Welcome, Intro & update	John Irven	2.00-2.15
2. 2016 Operational update	Paul Conibeare	2.15-2.35
3. Antiques Roadshow update	Paul Conibeare	2.35-2.45
4. Flying Scotsman update	Frank Courtney	2.45-3.05
5. Southern Gateway update	Steve Williams/Ric Auger	3.05-3.25
6. Q&A session	All	3.25-3.55
7. Close	John Irven	3.55-4.00



# 1. Welcome

John Irvén



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# Chairman's update - safety

- Focus on safety on railway after incidents & external audit
- Safety Project Group and Safety Audit Committee progress
- Action plan with deliverables
- Investigation of incident and reporting process now established
- Training in methods, examination, testing and certification of competence
- External audit identified need to review competencies firstly in Mechanical Engineering and Infrastructure, then across the organisation
- We have learned from HRA colleagues about their experiences with challenges of Flying Scotsman events, and we have shared our safety learnings back
- All about the need to focus on achieving the safe and efficient operation of our railway to meet our statutory responsibilities as duty holder



# Chairman's update - new recruitments

- New CME Dave Horton joined us in October as Head of Mechanical engineering, learning fast!
- Appointing a new head of finance to replace Roger Savill, joining in April/May timeframe
- Operating Department
- After the initial report on development of the operating department we consulted over concerns being raised by staff and interested parties over the report and communications
- As a result the board acknowledged that we needed to revise our approach and published our reply and apology for any unintended distress this had caused
- The restructure proposals and the implementation plan have been set aside and the implementation team including staff representation has agreement with staff on a revised way forward
- Aim to recruit a head of operating department, who would then consider the best development for the department
- All aiming to strengthen our capabilities for the future
- Interviewing for vacant board portfolios in early March, including a new role supporting operations.
- Re-configuring portfolios such as governance, IT, Heritage etc



# Chairman's update - agreements

- PLC had signed an agreement with SCC to 'protect' freehold for the railway requiring SCC to offer freehold to railway family via PDG requiring
  - 1 PDG to recommend a suitable bidder, bidders or new vehicle
  - 2 Endorsement by HRA as industry peer body &
  - 3 ORR as regulator
- 'Triple lock' ensures freehold will stay within WSR family
- Now agreed with SCC that although we cannot agree at present commercial terms to extend the remaining term of the lease from its current 74 years, we can enter into licenses, leases and memoranda of understanding with our railway partners
- This has allowed us to resolve terms with WSSRT who with PLC and WSRA agreement, are taking on Gauge Museum at BL, and other activities at Blue Anchor
- PLC partnering WSSRT on their HLF bid
- Model for moving forward with other partners



# Chairman's update - WSRA relationships

- Continue to work with new board
- Responded to development plan
- Established workgroups on key topics
- Williton and locomotives/rolling stock - 3 month rolling review of occupation continues whilst plans are finalised
- Recent agreement on QB operation by PLC in 2017
- Retail & catering discussions on shops & BL site
- Agreeing priority for locomotives and rolling stock
- How to set up agreed joint fundraising
- Norton land holdings - WSRA proposing a protection mechanism for future for the railway, analogous to protection of the SCC held freehold





## 2. 2017 Operational update

Paul Conibeare  
General Manager



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# November

- WSR informed it will host 60103 *Flying Scotsman* in 2017.
- Christmas Market at Minehead's Railway Station.
- New footpath from Doniford village to Doniford Halt.
- England Coast Path signpost, now has an extra finger to Doniford Halt.
- New Crowcombe Heathfield Goods lock up is unveiled.



# December



- BBC One announced Antiques Roadshow will visit WSR in May.
- Somerset County Council agree Plc can enter into licenses, leases and memo of understanding up to the term of the current head lease which has 73 years to run.
- First section of the Steam Coast Trail opened from Dunster Beach.
- Mattel, DOWT franchise holders, will not renew WSR's contract in 2017.



# January



- Visiting locos confirmed for 2017 Spring Steam Gala:-
  - GWR 0-6-0 1501, LMS 4F 0-6-0 43924, BR Class 2-6-0 78018 & 51XX 2-6-2T 5199.
- Two Manor locos will return early Summer to Autumn - 7822 *Foxcote Manor* & 7820 *Dinmore Manor*.
- Introducing the WSR's latest recruit...left



# February



- Ballasting & tamping of Minehead station relay.
- Unable to run a full steam service throughout the February half term due to vital track works.
- DMU service between Bishops Lydeard and Watchet only.
- Commercial Office move to Hub #3 by Minehead Station.
- New General Admin Office starts work in Minehead station.



# 2016 performance

- Accounts for 2016 are still being finalised, but are likely to show a small underlying profit;
- Statutory accounts will be distorted by a technical adjustment following extension of the hire agreement for 53808;
- Revenue broadly on budget:
  - 'Normal' fares close to budget, and up on 2015
  - Total pax 186,603 an increase of 3,839 on 2015.
  - Shortfall on gala revenue offset by higher income from SECs
  - Retail and catering also performed very well
- Careful cost control resulted in operating costs slightly under budget.
- BUT the surplus is still not enough to cover medium term maintenance and renewal needs for our infrastructure.



# Williton Loop S & T update

- The Williton resignalling is probably the biggest job ever undertaken by the S&T on the WSR. Thanks go to John Jenkins as lead engineer, Jonathan Champion as designer and Paul Harris as lead technician... and team.
- Work started again at Williton after Christmas, removing the temporary cabinet and block shelf and installing all the new components and changes as per the final design.
- The majority of the work has involved wiring the new relay racks in the locking room, something like 3350 connections.
- Outside the box all of the mechanical work is complete with some minor alterations to a track circuits which displayed a fault.
- Old cabinets and cables have been cleared from the site, but some external paint jobs to be completed, weather permitting.



# Minehead works update

- The groundwork component of the relay is now complete.
- Contractors have dug out and replaced the formation and drainage.
- PW gang are progressing well with the trackwork, with the main crossover and turnout to the bay road now installed.
- Work is on schedule for running 11 March.
- Crossover Ballasting and tamping started on schedule in this week.
- Project Board have agreed to delay the level crossing renewal until November due to resourcing and focus moving to the Flying Scotsman visit.
- Plan to relay the remaining plain line section from the level crossing to Alcombe foot crossing in November period.





# EVENTS - 2017

- Flying Scotsman:
  - 23 & 26 May running rail tours
  - Flying Scotsman - operating days 5-7 & 9-12 Sep 2017.
- GWR Charity HST to Minehead - Saturday 13th May 2017.
- Transfer of management of the Gauge Museum at Bishops Lydeard to the West Somerset Steam Railway Trust and relaunch of the museum in March 2018.
- Classic Car Run will be held on Sunday 4 June this year.
- Brunel House staff and stores will relocate to Brunel House 2 on BL Station Farm site.
- Railway Touring Company - London Paddington to Minehead will run 12, 19 & 26 August using one of:
  - LMS 6201 Princess Elizabeth
  - GWR 6023 King Edward II
  - SR 34046 Braunton.



# 3. Antiques Roadshow

Paul Conibeare



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# Antique Roadshow 17 May 2017

- The event is being filmed at Minehead Station from 9.30a.m. to 6.30p.m on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May
- The major set up day will be Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May.
- Could result in 2 programmes with a regular audience of 8 million viewers.
- Broadcast during late autumn and winter months.
- Special Timetable operating on 17<sup>th</sup> May based around the “A” timetable.
- Minehead station car park (owned by SCC) - free car park for 17<sup>th</sup> May only.
- Good response concerning Stewards for the day.
- The “WELCOME AND REGISTRATION” area for all visitors - pedestrian area outside the Minehead station building/Turntable café.
- Those arriving by train will be asked to leave by way of platform 1.



# 4. Flying Scotsman

Frank Courteney



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Flying Scotsman

**£4.2m**

cost of restoration

**£7,944**

cost to build in 1922

**100mph** First UK locomotive  
to reach this speed in 1934

**8 hours** First non-stop  
London to Edinburgh train, 1928

**1963** Scotsman retired from  
service by British Rail

Source: [flyingscotsman.org.uk](http://flyingscotsman.org.uk)



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# *Flying Scotsman Visit*

- ▶ Learning from Experience Elsewhere
- ▶ Timetable planning
- ▶ Infrastructure
- ▶ Tickets



# *Flying Scotsman Visit*

- ▶ **Stations Planning**
- ▶ **Catering**
- ▶ **Community Meetings**



# *Flying Scotsman Visit*

- ▶ **Emergency Services**
- ▶ **First aid**
- ▶ **Security**
- ▶ **Car parking and signage**





# 5. Southern Gateway

Steve Williams



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# 6. Question & Answer Session

Any questions ?



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