

THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (MEETING 94 – 16.03.2009)

Held at the National Tramway Museum, Crich, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Monday 16th March 2009 at 10.00am.

Issue: 1

Present; Messrs R.T.Pennyfather (Chairman), I.M. Dougill (Secretary), A. K. Thorpe (Minutes Secretary), A. Smith, N. Sturgess, G.C.G. Wilton, M.C. Wright.

94.1 Apologies for absence:

None.

94.2 Announcements

The Committee welcomed Nick Sturgess who was attending his first meeting of the Committee.

94.3 Minutes of Meeting 93 (26.1.09)

These were agreed as a true record of the meeting to be circulated with the Board minutes. Mr Pennyfather requested that the minutes are circulated to committee members sooner.

94.4 Town End Trackwork

Mr Pennyfather said that the Board was now committed to the current track layout. Although a specification had not been seen it was understood that it seemed to cover the whole area to the section breaker.

Mr Wilton noted that the proposal was to use concrete similar to the recent work at Wakebridge; however it would be treated to give the appearance of setts. Committee Members agreed that this finish would be too regular in shape and size and would look false, so it would be inappropriate at Town End.

There were services under the track at Town End and should the artificial surface need to be excavated at any time, the original finish of the artificial surface would never be able to be matched. Artificial surfaces are also susceptible to cracking.

Mr Wilton proposed that real setts, which the Museum currently has in stock, be used. This would also provide a cheaper solution. It was estimated that a concrete surface (with artificial sett finish) was likely to cost £25 sqm (150mm thick) and a tarmac surface with real stone setts £12 sqm. It was noted that using concrete to the top of the rail did not serve any structural purpose and that an alternative surface would not cause any operational problems. Any infrastructure used at Town End needed to be maintenance friendly and not result in high maintenance costs. There was also concern that levelling Town End would inhibit water draining away. It was suggested that the area between the rails be filled with a temporary surface and that consideration be given to the employment of 'ground workers' to lay setts over a few months.

The Committee agreed that the Tramway Museum Society is privileged to operate a Museum of national importance and that it was the Development Committee's remit to ensure that the period street maintained its traditional appearance, providing an authentic setting within which to operate the trams.

Therefore, as a matter of principle, the committee was opposed to the use of any form of artificial surfacing in the period street. It was agreed that the Development Committee must authorise any surface treatment used in the Town End project.

In addition, the Development Committee requested that a full and costed specification for the project be prepared and provided to the Committee, prior to commencement of any work.

RTP

94.5 Ripley Police Station

Mr Wilton reported that Focus Consultants had tried to secure grant aid from The Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEDEP) but they were unwilling to proceed until we had secured the necessary matching funding.

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DEDEP had said that they would consider grant aid when we had got all the necessary funding in place for the Stone Workshop and the Exhibition Hall as they wish to contribute towards a major package of development at the Museum. As the whole of the funding for the Exhibition Hall has not been secured, Mr Wilton had asked DEDEP if they would consider grant aiding the balance we required for the Exhibition Hall initially. Messrs Dougill and Wilton had now been invited to meet DEDEP to consider future funding opportunities.

Given that funding is currently not in place, it is now probable that even if a package could be put together, work to construct the Ripley Police Station would ~~now~~ be delayed until winter 2010/11 at the earliest.

GCGW

94.6 Red Lion Ramp

Mr Pennyfather reported that Mr Sykes had confirmed that there were no structural problems with the Tea Rooms which therefore had an indefinite life. Mr Smith indicated that the only affordable option was to improve the existing ramp.

Mr Pennyfather indicated that Retail & Catering had confirmed that their kitchen equipment did not yet need replacing. There was still the possibility of providing new kitchen accommodation and moving the old equipment into the new accommodation.

It was noted that if the first floor of the Red Lion was not required for catering then an alternative use could be considered. However, the importance of this room for catering on busy days and for functions was accepted.

94.7 Bandstand Area (including area to the north of Bowes Lyon Bridge)

Mr Pennyfather indicated that the Bandstand area had become a priority for the committee. The area could make a large impact on visitors as they entered the Museum. Mr Wilton was updating his paper which included proposals for the whole bandstand area to the north of Bowes Lyon Bridge including white lines, signage, traffic lights memorial garden etc., with costings and consideration of the best way to progress using both contractors and volunteers. Mr Wilton would circulate his paper shortly.

GCGW

Mr Sturgess said that we had the Euston Side gates and some railings which could be used in the Victoria Park project.

94.8 Toilet Facilities at Town End

Mr Smith indicated that the contractor he had approached had promised a basic quote by the end of the following week. This quote was to upgrade the gents toilet facility in the Derby Assembly Rooms and to install a unisex disabled facility.

AS

94.9 Wakebridge

Mr Wilton had previously prepared a draft paper which was now out of date following the recent track works. He would update the paper when time permitted.

GCGW

It was noted that the modern signage that has been installed was contrary to Development Committee policy and that the policy of tramway signage has not been adhered to. It was noted that the Committee had not been consulted on these signs, despite the Committee being responsible for signage throughout the Museum.

It was also suggested that redundant railway wagons be removed.

94.10 Stone Workshop

Mr Wilton indicated that lack of action by the lead monitor appointed by the Heritage Lottery Fund was unfortunately delaying progress of the scheme. However, Mr Wilton was still hopeful that we could progress to RIBA Stage E by May. This would allow us to go out to tender over the summer and allow the work to begin over winter 2009 / 10 if the stage two grant was agreed.

94.11 Woodland Walk

Mr Wilton was concerned at the closure of the **Woodland Walk** viewing platform by Workshop personnel after he had inspected it and reported it to be in good order.

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He was working on new tactile signage for the Woodland Walk.

Some of the sculptures were showing signs of wear and tear. Treatment of these could easily be done by volunteers in the autumn. A story telling chair had yet to be installed and a new sculpture was to be provided later in the year as the Society's rent from the wood carver.

GCGW

Mr Wilton had received an offer of a genuine offer of an Anderson Shelter which could be put up above ground. An underground Anderson Shelter could also be created alongside an allotment display. He would prepare a paper.

GCGW

94.12 Storage Facility

There is currently no money in the budget for a storage building.

94.13 Benches and Memorials

Mr Thorpe's report was to be copied to the Board of Management and considered in more detail by the committee at its next meeting. A report on Memorials was to follow for discussion at the next meeting of the committee.

ALL

94.14 Projects for the Future

The post of Development Officer had been advertised as a volunteer post, to report to the Curator and the Development Committee, but no interest had been received.

Mr Sturgess suggested that there is a need for a purpose built facility that can be used for an events dance hall and for other events.

Mr Smith had prepared a list of all of the projects which had been suggested by Mr Pennyfather in the paper which he submitted to the previous meeting of the committee in the form of an excel spreadsheet in order that committee members could use to consider and prioritise them. There was some discussion as to whether the projects should be prioritised by the committee. Mr Smith agreed to circulate the list by email for committee members to consider and complete. Mr Smith agreed to compile a final list based on all our returns.

AS

Mr Wright suggested that it would be useful to assess the list of ideas against the Museum's Mission Statement.

The Quarry

Mr Dougill indicated that the quarry had indicated that the quarry had reduced their output in view of the economic downturn and it was now likely to have a five year working life. They had entered into an option agreement with a third party for sale, one operations ceased. They would only exercise the option if they thought they could find a viable use for the quarry.

Mr Wilton suggested that the Society should begin to develop plans for any part of the quarry it would want to purchase and for what it would wish to use it. This was in order that the museum could have a project ready to implement as and when the opportunity might arise. It was agreed that this will be added as an Agenda item at future meetings.

94.15 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 1st June at 10am