

Report on Telford Steam Railway for the Dawley Hamlets Parish Council AGM - Wednesday 21st April 2021

Covid restrictions have meant that the Telford Steam Railway have not been able to open to the public since January 2020.

The board of directors and the active volunteers have been busy during this time doing essential maintenance, infrastructure work, security, administrative work, grant applications and preparing for the day when we can re-open the railway. Funds are limited, due to much reduced income, which has stopped us doing several projects to develop the railway.

There have been several appointments of new members to various roles within the railway including media and marketing, volunteer liaison and membership. A new website has been launched as well as a newsletter, which will be published every 3 months and is available to members of the public through our website.

Some of the tasks that volunteers have been busy with are:

Lineside vegetation clearance especially on the section of track between Spring Village and Horsehay and Dawley Station.

Sleeper replacement on the section of track from Spring Village Station to Horsehay and Dawley Station, including complete renewal of two sidings in Spring Village Station. We have purchased a large number of concrete sleepers from the Severn Valley Railway which will be used to replace wooden sleepers which become rotten and to lay new track on the Horsehay and Dawley to Doseley section.

Lineside tree cutting on the section between Horsehay and Dawley Station to the Pool Hill Road crossing and continuing down the line to the proposed new station at Doseley Halt. A professional tree surgeon was assisted by our volunteers. Over 100 letters were distributed to lineside residents to inform them about this work and offer them the chance to join contact group to keep in touch with our work on this section of the track. We were able to help various residents with concerns over some overhanging trees.

Some of our volunteers are busy working to restore a BSO Coach. This will involve a complete replacement of internal fittings and make it possible for us to offer facilities on this coach for disabled passengers as well as serving refreshments. Grants to do this work have been applied for.

We have also converted a wagon, that was previously located at Ironbridge Power Station and donated to the railway, into a crane wagon by adding a Hi Ab Crane and outer handrails, this wagon will prove very useful when we are re-laying track.

The railway have acquired 2 sets of ex mainline Pacer trains. These diesel units were recently withdrawn from service on Northern Rail and have been made available to Heritage Railways.

Increased efforts are being made to take greater control over our locomotive 5619, with the aim of still having it available for hire, but also seeing it steaming at Telford Steam Railway.

We have launched a project to rebuild the Horsehay and Dawley Signal Box, which was demolished in the 1960's not long after passenger services were withdrawn. Various grants have been kindly given for this project, including one from Dawley Hamlets Parish Council. We are currently applying for planning permission, reclaiming bricks from the original building, clearing the vegetation and earth from around the site as well as rebuilding surrounding walls that have collapsed over the years. The area around the station has been tidied up with new planting, two planters on the platform, a new station sign with other plans in the pipeline before we re-open to the public.

We are keen to develop a history of the station, its passengers and staff and create a display for the information of visitors and locals. To do this we are eager to talk to any locals who may have personal or family memories of Horsehay and Dawley Station.

The railway plan to re-open as soon as it is safe and we are allowed to do so.

Telford Steam Railway are always looking to attract new members, supporters or volunteers. If anyone is interested, you can contact us on our website www.telfordsteamrailway.co.uk or via our Facebook page @telfordsteamrailway.