

# Don Valley Railway News



**Edition 5** **December 2013**





## Signs of support from Sheffield City Council and SYPTE for Tram-Train

Sheffield City Council, SYPTE and their South Yorkshire partners carry out regular reviews of major public transport schemes that they would like to be able to develop in the future.


A Tram-Train route to Stocksbridge is on the 'long list' of possible schemes that has recently been produced. South Yorkshire partners will decide which schemes should be further considered given limited resources now and anticipated funding streams in the foreseeable future.

Our Business Plan Working Group is working on the ongoing development of the Business Plan.

## City Centre Masterplan 2013 Consultation

In May, Sheffield City Council started a six week public consultation on the City Centre Masterplan 2013 which sets out the Council's latest vision for the development of Sheffield City Centre over the next decade.

Consultation responses made available on the Council's website highlighted transport improvements on the Don Valley which included:

- **An improved tram network.**
- **The building of suburban rail or tram train stations across the city including Stocksbridge.**
- **Restoration of the Manchester  Sheffield via Woodhead route possibly as part of HS2**

It is anticipated that the Plan will be approved by the Council next summer.

## DVR contributes to planned continuation of Stocksbridge Solar Futures Project

Don Valley Railway (DVR) has asked to be part of a wider continuation project for the Stocksbridge Solar Futures Project after funding from the Universities of Durham and Sheffield ends next summer.

Over the past year, the research project has used Stocksbridge as an example of how a town can adjust itself to deliver community level renewable energy for the past year.

The end of project funding has resulted in solar

projects being brought forward such as the Inman Pavillion in Oxley Park, Stocksbridge.

The project has looked at other issues that will help Stocksbridge become carbon neutral. DVR supporter Barry Tyree introduced the idea of using heat transfer technology from water in disused mines under the area. Another DVR supporter, Ian Sutton has looked at Transport in Stocksbridge, not just in terms of the DVR but in terms of local accessibility.

The University has developed water power as energy sources for lifts to serve the proposed station site at Fox Valley set out in plans for the area.

Renewable energy is also a big issue at the moment as there is much community opposition to windfarm proposals overlooking Ewden Valley.

It is hoped that by collaborating with a continuation project to the Solar Futures project DVR can contribute to creating a lower carbon economy within the Upper Don Valley.

## Long Term Rail Strategy for the North

In July 2013, Rail North the lobbying group set up by northern councils to improve rail services in the north put forward its draft Long Term Rail Strategy for consultation until 21 October 2013. The Long Term Rail Strategy sets out how rail can support the growth of the North of England's economy over the next twenty years by improving connectivity for passengers and freight across the North, while at the same time providing a better customer experience and delivering a more efficient railway.

Delivering the Strategy creates an opportunity to increase the North's economy by up to £50bn over a 60-year appraisal period, equivalent to an annual benefit of up to £900 million. As well as supporting economic growth, the Strategy sets out how rail's contribution to the North's social progress can be grown and enhanced.

Rail North had originally sought total control over the next contracts. This would have meant that the Northern and Transpennine Franchises would be controlled by the Passenger Transport Executives and City Regions.

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said "The partnership approach can, and I believe will, work."

"What the Northern authorities came forward with was a massive plan that was very very bold. I looked at it and said – can we go as quickly as that? I would much rather roll it out in partnership. They were very content with that."

The competition to run the Northern and trans-Pennine route from February 2016 is due to get underway next year.



## Prescott backs new Transpennine Rail Service

A proposed fast Hull to Liverpool railway whose supporters include former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott could follow the Woodhead route, stopping at a rebuilt Sheffield Victoria Station and also link with HS2.

There would be scope for a semi fast service stopping at Stocksbridge and along the Upper Don Valley.

## End of line for Victorian Woodhead tunnels

Campaigners fighting to reopen the former Manchester to Sheffield Railway via the iconic Woodhead Tunnels have welcomed a move to seal up the route's Victorian tunnels.

The government has now announced that it will not buy them from present owners, the National Grid, which now plans to seal them up. It means that the three mile long tunnels, which opened in 1845 and 1852, will not form part of any new trans-Pennine rail link.

Transport Minister Stephen Hammond stated alternative schemes such as the Hope Valley route could accommodate the predicted growth in rail travel between Manchester and Sheffield.

It was indicated that the decision did not rule out the possibility of reopening the Woodhead route to rail traffic in future. However, if an additional rail route was ever required on the route, the construction of a new tunnel was seen as the likely way forward which provides a real glimmer of hope to campaigners who have never given up hope that the line could one day reopen.

In 2009 Don Valley Railway were informed that an offer to purchase the historic Victorian tunnels for £1 may be viewed favourably by owners, National Grid.

## HST Phase Two Update

Since our HS2 Special Newsletter, HS2 has featured even more prominently in the media. The Government has produced several reports to support its business case for HS2.

Two alternative options have also been made public by their supporters. Both of these options propose to use the Manchester-Sheffield Woodhead line.

An Information Event took place in Sheffield on 8-9 November. The consultation on HS2 proposed routes for Phase Two of HS2 will run until 31 January 2014. Further information can be found at <http://www.hs2.org.uk/phase-two/route-consultation/document-library>.

## Wave at railtour to Deepcar

The "Road to Hull" Railtour from Kings Cross on Saturday 28 December is visiting Deepcar and the meandering South Yorkshire Joint Line from Shireoaks to Doncaster on its way to Hull.

The train takes the East Coast Main Line (ECML) to Retford. It then heads west through Worksop, Darnall and the remains of Sheffield Victoria Station before going to Deepcar.

The tour returns to the Worksop area, it then traverses the meandering South Yorkshire Joint Line from Branchcliffe East Junction through Firbeck Junction and St Catherine's Junction to Kirk Sandall Junction. It continues via Goole to Hull for a break of a couple of hours. The return route is via Goole, Doncaster and the ECML.

The tour features a Class 92 on the ECML and a Class 60 will be in charge from Retford to Deepcar and from Worksop to Hull. A Class 67 will work the train from Deepcar to Worksop and from Hull to Doncaster Royal Mail Terminal.

The tour leaves London King's Cross at 08.15. Peterborough is its last stop at 09.40 before arriving in Sheffield.

All timings provided by tour operator UK Railtours are provisional and are intended only as a guide.

**We estimate the train will first arrive in Sheffield at approximately 11.00am.**

Don Valley Railway is exploring the possibility of running our own charter train to Deepcar.

## DVR petition presented to Stocksbridge Town Council

There were 2500 signatures to the DVR petition. We will be presenting it to Stocksbridge Town Council at its meeting on 12 December 2013.

Come and have your say.

## Shirt off!

At the recent Court hearing against the makers of the Parry People Mover, company chairman Sir John Parry was so annoyed at being told that he couldn't speak in court he removed his shirt in protest.

## Fox Valley Update

Developers Dransfield Properties have started work on Fox Valley, a £42 million mixed use development scheme on the former Outokumpu site off Manchester Road in Stocksbridge.

The Fox Valley development includes a new TESCO store, retail and office space and a central car park. It will create up to 900 new jobs. New housing neighbouring the main retail scheme will be built in the second phase. Land on the development includes provision for a Stocksbridge station on the line which last saw passenger services in 1931.

## PPM175, a possible option for Don Valley?

We take a slightly more detailed look at the Parry People Mover PPM175 as a possible option for use on the Don Valley Railway.

The PPM175 is a larger and faster vehicle than the vehicles currently operating in Stourbridge.

The 28m long prototype PPM175 offers around 80-90 seats and 2 wheelchair positions. The PPM175's maximum capacity is around 170 including standing passengers. A PPM175 has a maximum speed of 80km/h (50mph)

The PPM175 has four powered bogies each featuring a Ford 2 litre LPG engine, battery, LPG fuel tank, batteries for ancillary power and the transmission.

The PPM can be powered by alternative methods including an track side intermittent electrical supply point, green diesel or hydrogen fuel.

The technology is underpinned by the flywheel, which stores the kinetic energy is used to power the vehicle.

Using the PPM175 offers an opportunity to the wider rail industry to evaluate a lower cost option for the further development of provincial local rail services.

PPM175 cannot negotiate the much higher gradients found at street level running on the tram network. This renders this unsuitable for operation on the tram network.



## DVR Annual General Meeting

**Our AGM will be held in early 2014**

## Become involved with Don Valley Railway

### Volunteer and attend our drop in meetings

We are always looking out for supporters and volunteers to help us.

Come along to our meetings to find out how you can work with us to make the project happen.

We meet every month in Sheffield City Centre.

**Sheffield:** We meet every first Thursday of the month

7-9pm at the Harlequin Pub, Nursery Street, Sheffield.

**Stocksbridge:** For details or our meetings in Stocksbridge, email: [info@donvalleyrailway.org](mailto:info@donvalleyrailway.org)

## Become a member

Please complete the form below. Please state which type of membership you require:

Individual Membership £12 per year.....	
Family £18 per year.....	
Junior Membership £6.....	
Life Membership £120.....	

Name.....

Telephone No.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Email.....

Please return your membership application including cheque or postal order to:

Don Valley Railway  
11 Clarke Street  
Sheffield  
S10 2BS