

Press release from Chairs of WSR plc and WSRA

A project to review the best way forward for the Williton site, ie the Swindon shed, the activity within it and the immediate environment has been authorised by both boards. A number of proposals have been suggested by various people in recent times but no agreement has been reached. The purpose of this review is to find a financially viable solution which is of benefit to the West Somerset Railway and which has the backing of all organisations.

The review will be as objective as possible and will involve consultations with all parties who have a direct interest in or who have activities using the facilities. This will be coupled with a financial and strategic appraisal of options which emerge from the discussions. The immediate goal is to agree a financially viable way forward but, longer term, the aim is to agree the best ongoing and sustainable use for the site.

The project will be led by Ian Harrison who has been a volunteer in the loco department since 2001 and qualified to drive steam locomotives in 2015. He brings to the project the combination of a very good working knowledge of the WSR's operations and its needs with a business background in Engineering and Manufacturing in the UK, US and Europe plus a decade of experience of the NHS. He has an honours degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nottingham. He is well used to dealing with different cultures and working with people in a fair, objective and transparent manner.

He will report to both organisations as soon as possible in the summer. He will be making contact with the many people whose opinions are important in determining a way forward in the next week or two. His e-mail address for this purpose will be Ian.Harrison@wsrail.net