

[Please note the following is not an official WSRA publication but is taken from a statement kindly provided to www.wsr.org.uk by the WSRA Chairman.]

Association Secretary Susan Kaufman confirmed receipt of a members' request to convene a General Meeting. "The next step is to fully verify all of the names and membership numbers. Once we have done that, the date of the General Meeting will be announced. The process will be carried out strictly in accordance with the Association's Articles and following advice given by our legal representatives."

Association Chairman David Williams said, "We have gone to great lengths in attempting to accommodate this group, with the Association Manager and Trustees attending three meetings arranged by the group to answer questions and discuss the policies of the Board. One member of the group was invited to join the Board to represent the group's point of view, but the offer was declined. The group has requested a review of the WSRA, and the Trustees have already offered a review on condition that one antagonistic member of their group is not involved, but again that was rejected. The Trustees have also held three special invitation and two public meetings to answer members' questions. Throughout the past twelve months, mediation between the Association and the West Somerset Railway Plc has been an ongoing process with some of our members (not attached to this group) acting as mediators; this has moved forward positively, though obviously privately, in order to respect all parties involved.

"The Association has already joined the Partnership Development Group formed of the Railway's major stakeholders and local council representatives, has been invited (and has accepted the invitation) to join the Taunton to Bishops Lydeard Rail Group in respect of the charity's ownership of the Norton Fitzwarren site. We are represented on the recently reconvened Bishops Lydeard Site Development Group (formerly the Station Farm Site Development Group) which is now meeting again and will be part of the Williton Site Users Group when this is reconvened shortly by West Somerset Railway Plc. The observation saloon and Quantock Belle have been integrated into the last two major special events, the 2014 Autumn Steam Gala and the 2015 Spring Steam Gala, and the Association team will provide catering for the Plc's Murder Mystery Trains after a successful pilot run in December. All of these developments are positive and progressive, and we will stand by the actions we are taking to ensure the Association plays a full and active part in the West Somerset Railway going forward."