

**SCPC Autumn Clean Up – from SC Station with Q & A Session with NWR.**

**Present:- SCPC Cllrs – Janet Palmer & Mike Carpenter + Clerk Marion Pratt**

**SCPC Dartmoor Rail Working Party – Jacqui Bourne.**

**Dartmoor Railway Association – Tom & Sue Baxter, David Ellis + Tony Hill.**

**Parishioners – Brian & Heather Aldridge, Bill Robertson, Jackie & Barry Anderson, Sandra & Robert Blackmore, Annie Highley, Viv Band, Julie Carpenter, Andy Wilson**

**NWR/GWR – Vince Cooper, Andrew Knowles + Christian Irwin**

**Apologies – Cllrs Michele Wilson, Colin Coleman, Bob Tucker & Martin Morrissey + DCC Cllr James McInnes, NTTCC Cllr Steve Whiteley, Joy Tucker, Jackie Hedges.**

- Originally intended as part of SCPC regular Autumn Clean Up – the morning actually provided an opportunity for several parishioners who live close to the station to ask questions of NWR representatives.

The following points were raised in no particular order or importance:-

- SC Station is currently not being considered as a Request Stop – but it would be possible to do this in the future, subject to the right facilities/access being made available.
- At the moment SC Station is lacking necessary H & S facilities such as Lighting, CCTV, power and other basic station facilities.
- Car park – whilst it has always been in ‘railway use’ it is currently unregistered and NWR are in the process of legally reclaiming ownership with support of the former land owners
- NWR work on a “Safe first and last mile” principle – considering safe access to the station. Currently SC Station is on a busy road, with limited visibility, no street lights, or footpaths.
- Current plans are for a 2 hourly service starting by December 2021 at the latest, (hopefully earlier) – an hourly service will commence in Spring 2022 and the ability to stop at Sampford Courtenay is currently restricted by the tight time schedule of getting trains from Crediton (nearest passing place) to Okehampton and back again.
- Extended Weekend service is a possibility in the future.
- Currently no plans to use this line for haulage (eg stone from a re-opened Meldon Quarry) although the lines have been laid taking that into consideration for the future. However, it would involve additional work to make several of the rail structures strong enough to take regular freight trains.
- Vegetation to maintain the green corridor – NWR currently awaiting an Ecology Licence from Natural England (the railway is a haven for Dormice) to enable them to cut back the vegetation along the whole route 1m each side, with a 45\* slope to prevent “leaves” on the line. It is hopeful that this will be granted shortly. NWR are working closely with ecologists and Natural England to offset any temporary or permanent lost habitat

- Timetable – has not been published and is still subject to change. Expected early train from around 7am from Okehampton – last train 10pm from Exeter. This will all be confirmed once the start of service is formally announced
- GWR – are liaising with local bus companies and Devon County Council to develop better bus connections between outlying areas to the station.
- Grand Opening – still to be announced. Lots of local MPs taking an interest in the re-opening. Local interest re 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the line.  
<https://dartmoorline.com/150th/>
- Okehampton Parkway – is subject to further government funding and not likely to be built/opened until 2023/24 – currently the West Devon Transport Hub – (WDBC, DCC, NWR & GWR) have put in a bid for additional funding from the “Levelling Up Fund”.
- Local Parishioners concerns/questions
  - i) Lack of information to local residents from NWR – (all information given to SCPC is available on SCPC Website via Minutes  
<https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/parish-council-minutes-agendas> or Dartmoor Line Working Party notes - <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/dartmoor-line> Parishioners can also sign up on any page of the Website to receive regular emails direct to their inbox regarding Planning Notices, Events etc.
  - ii) Development of the Car-park – concerns regarding possible removal of vegetation which currently screens properties from railway noise and gives certain security.
  - iii) Fencing – As above – neighbouring properties concerned about need for replacement fencing to provide security to their properties.
  - iv) Several parishioners spoke directly to Christian who I believe will respond to them directly.

