

LYNTON & BARNSTAPLE RAILWAY. NEWSLETTER

L&BR Newsletter No. 87 September 2025

Results from the members' development options vote

As our members will be aware we recently presented several extension options following the refusal of our planning application to Cricket Field Lane. We had a great response from both the UK and further afield with online and postal votes being submitted and we thank everyone for their time in considering this important matter.

We are pleased to be able to announce the following results. The total number of responses received was 1047 of 3063 sent, or a **response of 34.2% overall**. Of the total amount, **24.6% of responses were sent back online and 75.4% by post**.

Members were clear with regards to appealing against the Cricket Field Lane planning refusal decision, with **97.0% responding 'No' to appealing**.

The first and second preference options were as follows.

Options

- C: Resubmit the Cricket Field Lane extension proposal (0.6 miles) but with alternative arrangements to mitigate setting concerns identified in the refusal notice
- D: Submit a new planning application to extend the line to the original Parracombe Halt. (0.75 miles)
- E: Plan for an extension from Woody Bay to Caffyns (1.6 miles)
- F: Develop the Blackmoor to Wistlandpound route and open it as a second operational line (1 mile)
- G: Extend from Chelfham North and/or South (up to 3.3 miles subject to further land acquisition)
- H: Concentrate only on the Woody Bay site
None (2nd preference)

The voting results showed a clear first preference for **Option D: Submit a new planning application to extend the line to the original Parracombe Halt with 71.1%**. And second was for **Option F: Develop the Blackmoor to Wistlandpound route and open it as a second operational line with 22.9%** and the **highest second preference vote with 33.6%**.

It should further be noted that Options D and F also scored the highest share of combined first and second votes with 31.8% overall. The second-placed combination was Option D and Option E (Plan for an extension from Woody Bay to Caffyns) which received 13.3% with the third, Options F and D, securing 9.8%. Other smaller combinations made the balance when considering the combination of votes.

Therefore, considering this clear steer from the membership, and as outlined in the members' information pack, we will now start development work on Option D with a view to submitting a planning application. This will include further maturing of the business case, business plan, project



plans and cost estimates. During this period, we will engage with planners, neighbours and local stakeholders. In parallel, again recognising members' preferences, we will continue to develop Option F between Blackmoor and Wistlandpound but with this as a secondary priority to the activities as part of work on Option D. Should land become available between Lynton and Woody Bay, we will also pursue any opportunities there with vigour.

More information is available on the website.

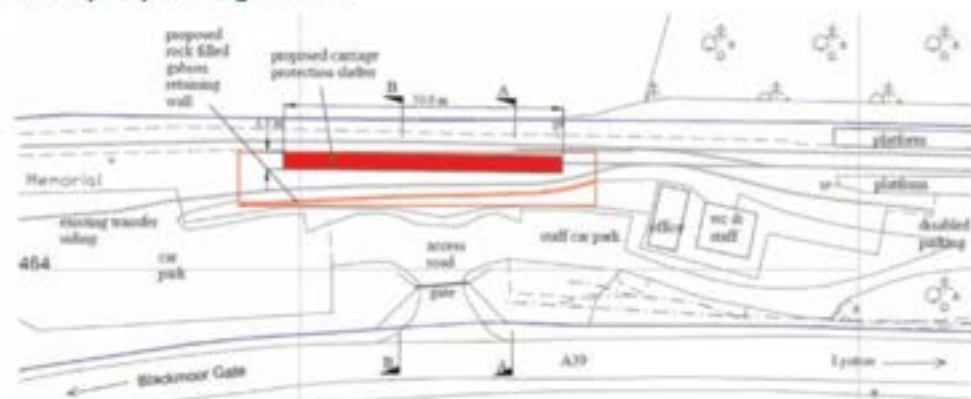
Governance update No. 1

As members' will be aware the Trust and CIC agreed in July "to examine potential new models of governance that could more effectively serve the needs and expectations of our members, staff, volunteers, funders and other stakeholders."

By means of an update, the first Governance sub-group (consisting of trustees and CIC directors) was held a few weeks ago and has agreed a programme and associated schedule of activities. This includes an evidential review of governance models being used or developed in the heritage rail sector and beyond as well as an objective assessment of any new and emerging models as to their suitability and their benefits in meeting the current and future needs of the L&BR.

It was also agreed to report in detail any findings and subsequent recommendations for members' consideration as part of the 2026 AGM process. We will report on further updates as work progresses between now and next Spring.

Woody Bay carriage shelter



The construction of the Carriage Shelter is in progress with the retaining wall completed, foundations concreted and the steel frame fabricated. At the time of writing the steelwork is away being galvanised and will be delivered to site shortly and erected.

Trackwork in the area including the headshunt siding and the transshipment siding has been dealt with by our volunteers. The pointwork giving access to the loading dock has been realigned to improve its function. The headshunt will be relaid soon.

Donations for this vital project have been going well and you can donate here - <https://www.lynton-rail.co.uk/carriage-shelter-appeal> All donations will be gratefully received.

Carriage Workshop report

Coach 7 made its way back to the Essex coach workshops for the repairs required to the sole plates. This is now well underway. The body has been jacked up, the defective sole plate section removed and the new parts spliced in. When ready the body will be lowered back onto the underframe and the parts removed for access replaced, repainting and return to North Devon will follow. The intention is that a return load back to Fridaywood Farm will be the new underframe for Van 23 which will enable the reassembly of this unique vehicle. Once again, funding for this work is a most important part of the whole project and needs your help.

Engineering update

No news yet on the extent and cost of overhaul works to Axe, however she will be appearing at the Gala although not in steam (of course!) Another item of news from the workshops is that we have commissioned patterns for casting our own vacuum cylinders. The first sets of casting will be following directly and these will be completed and fitted to Van 23's underframe. As the whole of our rolling stock is to be vacuum braked this will be a very important step for the future. The vacuum cylinders on most of our coaches are ex-Vale of Rheidol Railway which were made redundant when that line was changed to air-braking. The casting patterns were paid for by the 100 Club and thanks to all those who support this.

Paul Curson

After many years of service, Paul has decided that the time had arrived for his retirement as a trustee. The trustees thanked him for his dedicated efforts on Funding, Environmental and Tree work in addition to other tasks. This does mean that the search is now on for a suitable replacement for Paul of course.

Webcams – working

Have you seen the webcams with views at Woody Bay station? Take a look here - Watch the Lynton and Barnstaple Railway live on our webcam The camera location will be moving once the carriage shelter is completed. The current cameras give a great view of what is going on at the Railway - including the weather of course!

Shares available L&B R related holiday property "Rowley Moor House"

Advanced age and limited mobility are the reasons which shareholders give when they decide to sell their shares in Rowley Moor House, one of the two holiday houses which are owned by Rowley Moor Properties Limited. They want someone younger to be able to enjoy holidays on Exmoor, close to the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway. The Old Station Inn - the original Blackmoor Station - is just a few minutes' walk from the house.

For six thousand pounds you can buy yourself a proportionate part of the actual building which you would then own in perpetuity. If you pay your annual maintenance fee each year (which for 2025 was £230) you would be entitled to stay in the five-bedroom house for your allocated week. That week moves on by 17 or 18 weeks each year so you don't get stuck with a week in mid-winter every time. This web page <https://www.lynton-rail.org.uk/page/rowley-moor-properties-ltd> gives more information about Rowley Moor House and how the system works. Send an email to rowleymooreweeks@gmail.com for more details.

Members' Forum 8th November

Don't forget the Members' Forum to be held in Lynton Town Hall on 8th November

Auction of Original Painting to be held at the Members' Forum, Lynton Town Hall on Saturday 8th November 2025,



This recently completed 24" X 16" artwork, painted in acrylic, by Barrie Cann from our Woody Bay paintshop, depicts the founder of the L&B Railway, Sir George Newnes, together with the 2024-restored Bagnall locomotive which now bears his name. The painting is offered for auction, either in person, or, for those unable to attend, by sealed bid, with all proceeds being donated to the L&B R Trust. The auction will be held live, during the annual L&B forum, at Lynton Town Hall, on 8th November 2025. The winning bidder will take possession on the painting upon full payment of their bid. There will be no additional fees or commissions due.

Sealed Bids. Click here to access further details and download a bidding form. Sealed bid forms must be received by the organisers, by midnight on 31st October, either by post or e-mail. Email to barriecann@yahoo.co.uk, or post your form to:

Lynton & Barnstaple Railway Trust: FAO Barrie Cann (Auction)
Woody Bay Station, Martinhoe Cross, Parracombe, Barnstaple, EX31 4RA

Working Weekends - These are the upcoming Working Weekend dates:-

November 21st -23rd / January 23rd -25th / March 20th -22nd. Everyone welcome and as ever we have a wide range of jobs to suit any ability and any amount of help is truly appreciated.

The main jobs for each weekend will be announced shortly as I am just waiting on confirmation of a few other items after a very hectic summer. The usual set up, please bring boots / work clothes / wet weather gear (we may not have cover at lunch time at certain sites) / packed lunch. We will provide hot drinks and snacks. It will be really great to see everyone over those weekends. Any questions please let me now. Stuart Nelhams

Railway 200 Autumn Gala 27th & 28th September

As part of Railway 200 we will be concentrating on narrow gauge of all sorts with a total of about 9 locomotives on show and in action. Should be a great weekend, not to be missed

And finally

Don't forget to watch the 'Steam on the Moor' YouTube series for regular updates available on your smart TV, on-line, tablet or mobile - just search 'Steam on the Moor' The series is up to Episode 22 to date and enjoyable, informative, very well presented and filmed.