



Supporters Newsletter for the



Heritage Railway Trust

Spring 2020



A deserted Waldersea depot as Coronavirus restrictions keep our members at home.

But, we will be back when our country overcomes this pandemic, and life will return to what we hope will be our understanding of normal. So much suffering in peacetime makes one ask why and how? This level of world social and economic turmoil could not have been imagined as we came into 2020.

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News on the Line.

Before the media was fully consumed with the dreadful virus, we witnessed the latest 'budget' reports on a possible reopening of the line from March through to the near centre of Wisbech. The figures were in excess of £200 million. This figure, quoted in the local press, was announced whilst the Grip 3 study is still under way, which might suggest that such estimates are still very much 'plucking figures out of the air' guesses.

A more recent headline in Wisbech, is an application to build, next to the railway, an industrial scale incinerator to both reduce landfill waste and create power. As we understand it, the power created will be in the form of steam, intended to be supplied possibly to two local large food processing operations in relative close proximity to the railway.

To transfer this power from the proposed incineration plant to either of these possible clients, steam pipes would have to be laid along the route currently occupied by the rail track. Our picture below is facing the intended incinerator site, where much of the bramble undergrowth has recently been cleared by others. If this project was to go ahead, would high pressure steam alongside a proposed commuter line be acceptable, would there be sufficient physical space to accommodate both? Another case of watch this space.



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Grip 3

As previously mentioned, the grip 3 study into any possible commercial reopening of the line is still under way. Having hit numerous obstacles along its path, it is many months behind schedule. A recent public report, issued on March 6th this year, gives a progress update into the feasibility of any possible reopening. Far too lengthy to start drawing out facts here, following is a link to read the detail in full.

<https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1D TL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=YjDLXLkEE1dUeHnaZQQZg03X8%2fHb2iU8VfY%2bXM5P17yWF5YY2dz LOQ%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWcPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSffXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAjvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJff55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3d>

The report is accompanied with an Options Assessment Report, and an Interim report. For the sake of giving the full picture, links for these are below:

Options Assessment Report.

<https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1D TL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=GjDm4brNhW0ueWcNYKDE42NoIZ%2bvdoX4IY2mrthVCFGOkjebmfiY5A%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWcPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSffXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAjvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJff55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3d>

Interim Report.

<https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1D TL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=EffTrN8GmX76Z3Zu3SPhRrX%2b94HXardRRtWn5mVfBCQxTlpYbTI4Yg%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWcPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSffXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d>

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[%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJff55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3d](#)

When you start reading the level of detail taken on board investigating the line, you start to see where all the money goes. We may be thinking about a relatively straight railway line, and the main problems would be the 22 level crossings it passes, and where to put a station. But maybe, rather than a case of watch this space mentioned earlier, let's rephrase to 'Don't hold your breath', and get back to heritage rail for the Bramley Line.

AGM and Committee Meetings.

With the Coronavirus lockdown, at the time of writing, all meetings have been suspended until further notice. While our opening piece reflects on the social desolation now affecting so many organisations, the picture below reminds us of busier times not that long ago.



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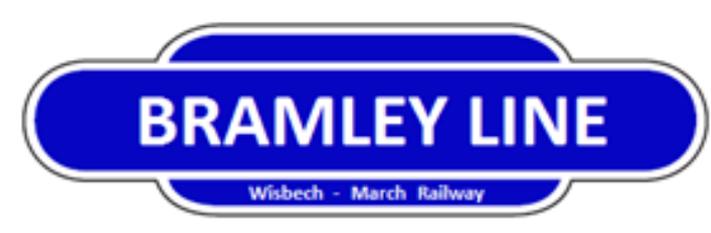
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Volunteering.

It's fair to say that none of us know when the current pandemic restrictions will start to be lifted, or what form they may take. One thing is more certain, that many of us have had a lot more time on our hands over recent weeks and may be having thoughts about life going forwards. If you are looking for a fresh interest, that involves fresh air and exercise, you could consider joining our band of volunteers working at Waldersea. All active heritage rail operations have taken years to achieve and need a robust group of active volunteers to make progress. So, why not have a look at our website, click on the address at the bottom of this page, look through previous news, and develop your hidden passion for heritage rail.



The Heritage Railway Trust dedicated to railway heritage in the North Cambridgeshire Fens

Membership renewal.

The month of March has now passed us by, and it marks renewal time for annual members. Individual membership is still only £12 per year, with membership for couples at £18, and families £24.

If you haven't renewed yet, you can visit our website, www.bramleyline.org.uk going to the membership page using a credit or debit card. Alternatively, you can also pop a cheque in the post to our Waldersea address below. Even in these difficult times, we need to keep the finances ticking over, so your continuing support will be much appreciated.

If your membership has lapsed for a year or two, maybe now is the time to re-join the movement to keep this line on the map to bring some railway heritage back to the fens.

New Members are always very welcome.

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