

SOS: Save our trams!

After several months of uncertainty over our situation at the RVR in Robertsbridge, it has now been confirmed to us that we will need to move our trams and other equipment from their present site, by the end of August, next summer (2012). A copy of the letter is overleaf. This is due to the now accelerated redevelopment of the RVR by the Kent & East Sussex Railway Group. In the process of this, RVR will, it seems, be absorbed into K&ESR without any acknowledgement of the group's hard work over the past two decades!

But enough politics and back to our situation, we currently have our two tramcar bodies 48 and 56 at Robertsbridge, our PMV wagon (we purchased several years ago), our mini tram (no. 10), a dismantled tram chassis and truck plus lots tools and other equipment.

At an extraordinary meeting of the HTC committee held on Tuesday 4th October, it was agreed that we should try to sell the PMV wagon and the tram chassis. For both, we have already had several offers. Our main problem now is trying to find a home for our tramcars. Since they are the last two remaining Hastings Tramcars in existence its vital we preserve them for future generations to see. If we cannot find a home for them, a piece of Hastings' history will be lost forever!



- ◆ For our two Hastings Tramcar bodies, we are currently looking for:
 - An area of land/indoor space to house them on a permanent/semi-permanent basis
 - Ideally, this would be in the Hastings area, possibly Bexhill, Crowhurst, St Leonards etc.
 - The minimum area we need is 20' square, but ideally more
 - Ideally accessible from a made road-way, for transportation
 - We need a height clearance of at least 9' through doorways etc.
- ◆ We will also be looking for help in actually moving our trams & equipment from Robertsbridge (date to be confirmed).
 - Do you own, or know someone that has, a lorry or pick-up truck that you would be willing to help us move the trams with?
 - Do you own, or know someone that has, a van that you would be willing to help us move our other small equipment with?
- ◆ We are also interested in offers for our PMV wagon and our tram truck, both as seen at Robertsbridge.

Do you think you, or somebody you know, may be able to help? Please get in contact with us as soon as possible - contact details below.

Date and time of next meeting

The club will be holding its regular meeting at the RAFA club, Hastings at 8pm on Tuesday 29th November 2011. The meetings are open to all members.



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IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE KENT & EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY
Patrons: Gregory Barker MP, Chris Green MA FCTT
**ROBERTSBRIDGE (RVR) STATION, STATION ROAD,
ROBERTSBRIDGE, EAST SUSSEX. TN32 5DG**

Roy Austen & Derek Masters,
The Hastings Tramway Society
c/o Rother Valley Railway
Station Road
Robertsbridge
TN32 5DG

Dear Roy & Derek,

6th September 2011

Hastings Tramway Society – Property stored at Rother Valley Railway Robertsbridge.

Thank you for making time to meet Heien Brett & myself last Sunday 4th September to discuss the tram bodies and other equipment you have stored on site at Robertsbridge Junction Station.

The site is to be redeveloped next year and I am afraid we will no longer be able to retain your equipment on site. I summarise the position below:

- 1) Your Hastings Tramway Society have on site equipment comprising two wooden tramcar bodies, a tram chassis with other associated chassis parts, a PMV type railway van plus other small items. All this equipment is to be removed from Rother Valley Railway property by latest 31st August 2012.
- 2) In the interim period we must move this equipment out of the way and put it elsewhere on site by end February 2012. We will provide plant and equipment that is being used in the construction of the site to assist you in moving the tram bodies and chassis. They will likely be placed on, or near, the 'Oaktree' site. We will also arrange to shunt your PMV railway van off the station site with the other stock out of way – probably onto the new tracks forming the curve and sidings north of the station. Could you please therefore prepare the equipment for that relocation by the end of February 2012 and ensure it is all safe to move.
- 3) If you decide to sell your PMV railway van to others that must be only for removal from site by any new owner and is to be taken away within one month of that sale and in any event by the end of August 2012 latest. We will of course arrange to shunt it to the lowloader lorry loading area at the north end of the site. Nevertheless when

making arrangements could you please have in mind that because of soft ground condition in the adjacent Network Rail car park we prefer to avoid bringing heavy lowloader lorries onto the site between November and February inclusive.

If it is of assistance Rother Valley Railway Ltd offer to buy that PMV type railway van from your group for £900 lump sum sold as seen and we can then look to dispose of the vehicle ourselves. Perhaps you could kindly let me know.

4) The smaller lorries that will be needed to transport the tram bodies and chassis away can collect at anytime of the year – as they are much lighter in weight than a lowloader.

Thank you for your kind understanding and we hope you find good homes for all your equipment.

We wish your project well for the future.

With kind regards

Mike Hart
Director