

Protecting Locomotive 4110 for the future of the West Somerset Railway.

During the last few months news of the challenges that the WSR is currently facing have become public. In order for these challenges to be corrected the WSR plc requires significant sums of working capital to be raised quickly. Quite rightly the Board of Directors have looked at areas where existing capital is tied up in assets that are not providing a return, or likely to provide a return in the near future, as a result some redundant items have already been sold.

Locomotive 4110 was purchased by the WSR plc in May 2015 to strengthen the home based locomotive fleet following restoration, once other projects then in progress were completed. The present need to raise working capital makes this ambition non-viable at this time, and the locomotive has been put up for sale with external offers already on the table.

A number of footplate crew members and shed staff have come together to explore ways to protect 4110 for the long term future of the railway, as once lost it can never be regained. We accept the reasoning behind the sale, its' inevitability and the Board of Directors' decision, it is the sensible thing to do in order to keep the railway alive.

This group of footplate crew members and shed staff propose to form a private limited company for the purpose of raising the asking price of £100,000 (plus £20,000 in the short term for vat) in order to purchase the locomotive from the WSR plc, thereby protecting its ownership for future use on the railway. Restoration is not necessarily part of the immediate plan, protecting the ownership is the primary aim.

The timescale for this purchase is very short, and we have been given only a few weeks until mid January to raise the funds and make the purchase. This will be no easy task and so we need to know as soon as possible the extent of support that might be forthcoming from within the working members of the railway, its supporters and those further afield. We will need the equivalent of 120 people at £1,000 each, more for smaller denominations such as £200 and less for larger amounts.

There is no point in wasting time making the WSR plc wait if such support is not forthcoming, so this letter is to canvas for potential subscribers. We are **not** looking for money today, just a list of who might support us and to what value. If successful the group can be correctly incorporated and monies collected early-mid January 2019.

Please email Chris Ruddick on gwr4110@gmail.com with your contact details and the value of your proposed contribution.

With Christmas this will be a difficult time to be asking for money but once 4110 has gone, it's gone. Please help, preferably with a response today.

Seasons greetings from Chris Ruddick, George Thomas, Peter Chilcott, Richard Hiscox, Andy Norman, Steve Ryall, Stuart Nelhams, Andy Forster, Paul Orrells and Dave Hurd.

21st December 2018