

## **THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING AND THE OCTOBER 2021 AGM**

The Chairman, Councillor H Kane the Council regarding the Royal Gunpowder Mills and advised that it was with regret that the Royal Gunpowder Mills had not been successful in opening to the public, due to staff and volunteer shortages.

To address this the committee members and trustees have decided on the following:

### **Site Manager Recruitment**

Three external candidates had been called forward for interview by a panel comprising of members of the committee. The candidates were given a short tour of the site prior to their interviews. The members of the committee unanimously agreed that Helen Hamlyn was the most suitable candidate and she has accepted the appointment.

### **Volunteer Recruitment**

There had been no progress on the overall recruitment of new volunteers. It was reported that several of the railway volunteers also undertook a range of site-wide volunteer roles such as security patrols, mending roads and other duties. A meeting had been scheduled of the railway volunteers to take forward the restructuring of the leadership team for effective running of the railway. There was a need for eight or each drivers, guards and stewards and at present there were five drivers and three guards.

The committee members were very aware of the importance of the Visitors Experience scheme so the Working Party responsible for these events had prepared a provisional plan for twelve months, with the underpinning principle being to identify what could be provided to visitors consistently and to a high quality. This would be submitted to the Operating Company Board at its October 2021 meeting. The plan was to open at Easter 2022 with some trial runs before that to iron out any operational difficulties.

Since the AGM the following members have been elected:

Jill Amador,

Paul Barnard,

Grahame Browne,

John Brown,

Tracey Read,

Douglas Kent,

Mark Pemberton

James Richardson,

Len Stuart,

Geoff Hooper - Vice Chairman

Fiona Baxter - Chairman