



## **DARTMOOR RAILWAY SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE**

### **DARTMOOR RAILWAY END OF LEASE/RAILWAY FOR SALE**

The Dartmoor Railway Supporters' Association (DRSA) has received a number of enquiries concerning the sale of the Dartmoor Railway.

DRSA is a volunteer organisation and not privy to any policy issues on the Dartmoor Railway currently operated by Dartmoor Railway Community Interest Company (DRCIC). No-one from DRCIC management or the owning organisation British American Railway Services Ltd (themselves the UK subsidiary of Iowa Pacific Holdings based in Chicago, USA) has, to date, contacted us about the sale of DRCIC or changes to the leasing arrangements between them and Aggregate Industries and Devon County Council. We can only refer to the sales details outlined on the Walker Singleton website.

DRSA with over 200 members, welcomes any moves that will speed up the reintroduction of daily train services between the growing town of Okehampton, the city of Exeter and beyond. We help maintain the current excellent facilities at Okehampton station. Daily services will improve connectivity for local people, businesses and the tourist industry. It will also serve the wider population of West Devon and North Cornwall, currently England's largest 'Rail Desert'.

Ideally, DRSA would like the Okehampton line to the boundary with Network Rail's North Devon line at Coleford (near Yeoford) to again be part of the national rail network. The government has already set an objective for introduction of a regular train service 'as soon as practicable'.

DRSA provides rolling stock and staffing for seasonal Heritage services from Okehampton to Meldon Viaduct within Dartmoor National Park. We look forward to working with the new arrangements.

Until more is known it is difficult for us to reliably speculate on the possible future options.

*DRSA Committee  
8th January 2020*