

Welcome to the website for all of those interested in the future of Deltic 55016 Gordon Highlander, nominally called the Gordon Highlander Preservation group. This website and the associated appeal has come about as the future for 55016 is currently unclear and there is a real danger the locomotive will be dismantled for spare parts.

Once this possibility came into the public domain there were many people who felt strongly that the loco should have a viable future as a working engine in its own right and that 26 years after its original preservation it is not acceptable for a Deltic to be scrapped.

The purpose of this website is to act as online home for the new preservation group, aiming to raise funds quickly through the purchase of shares to provide the necessary finance required if the loco is made available for sale by Harry Needle Railroad Company. The group understands that no decision on the loco's future will be made until after its 'farewell' running days at the end of September.

To prevent anyone attempting to take control of the group, all shareholders will have a single vote on group issues, irrespective of the number of shares owned. There will also be the opportunity to own shares through volunteering to work on the loco and incentives dependent on the number of shares purchased. This is similar to the way several other groups already operate. A supporters group could also be formed.

However I have to make clear that from the very start that the future of the loco and the possibility of being able to purchase 55016 hangs very much in the balance.

On the positive side, there have been multiple pledges been promised which if this was a normal loco would easily cover the purchase cost and have some money left over for purchasing a spare set of scrap bogies and starting the necessary restoration. There have been offers of engineering help, spare temporary accommodation bogies (Many thanks to Paul Spracklen, owner of 50026) and quite critically in this day and age, at least three potential railway homes.

On the negative side I have to say that in initial discussions with the current owner of 55016 I have received no encouragement to pursue a purchase of the loco. I would not want break the confidentiality of that communication but I feel it is necessary to give an example of the scale of the issue we face here as a potential preservation group. I am led to believe there is already a firm offer of a **six figure sum** just to purchase the empty bodyshell to be kept at a private site. There are also other substantial offers for parts of the loco.

I have say that it is my own personal feeling that the amount that would be required to even interest the current owner in selling the loco in a state that could make it viable to have a working future is currently far in excess of what could be raised and frankly what a loco without bogies, motors and engines is possibly worth.

I am still willing to go ahead and formally launch the group. I have a set of articles ready to form an association and other offers of help to put an organisation in place but before I am prepared to commit my and others time, I would like to suggest that anybody interested in the future of the loco and this group should register on the

forum part of this website and join the debate. The questions we need to are as follows:

- 1) Should we pursue the preservation and purchase of Gordon Highlander no matter what the purchase cost and what parts we are actually allowed to buy?
- 2) Should we form a group to maintain interest and “watch this space” should the loco be made available for purchase in the future?
- 3) Should we stop at this point and accept this is an asset owned by a private company who can dispose of its assets as it pleases?

Join in and state your view. The only condition I will apply to the debate is that I can't accept any personal abuse of anyone involved in Deltic preservation today or in the past and of course anything that could be potentially libellous. I would personally appreciate it if you could sign any post with you real name but initially I'm not going to make it mandatory. If you have an issue you really need to raise which might break those rules, contact me directly first so we don't have any tears before bedtime and I don't end up in court 😊

Otherwise, join in, shout out. I would like to ensure all possible avenues and opinions have been explored. The goal hasn't changed; the ability to deliver is proving a major challenge.

Duncan Langtree GHPG Group Creator