

Report for Didcot Town Council regarding the Didcot Railway Centre Transport Rally

Prior to the Covid pandemic the Railway Centre had held four Transport Rallies based in and around Didcot Parkway station and the Railway Centre. Due to the relaxing of Covid restrictions and the perceived desire for the public to start reliving normal life, the idea of a re-born Transport Rally was conceived. Thanks to the Town Council, the use of Ladygrove Park was agreed for the static rally of preserved cars, buses, commercial vehicles, static engines, and other attractions plus allowing the preserved buses and coaches that were offering free rides to various local destinations to collect and detrain their passengers.

Due to the required payment for use of Ladygrove Park an application was made to the Council for a donation to cover this cost.

On the day of the Rally, 22nd May, there were encouraging numbers of visitors who enjoyed free access to the Rally, and we had an estimate of five hundred visitors either on the Rally site or on the free bus rides. At times, our stewards were asking the visitors of their views of the Rally, and all were incredibly positive of the event especially as it was a free event and hoped there would be another Rally in 2023.

We have learnt lessons following this event:

- Endeavour to have any portable toilets delivered on the day, as those delivered before the event were vandalised on the Saturday night before the event
- Advertise more
- Try and ensure that all our costs are covered if we are to keep it a free event

Many thanks to the Council for their support for this event.

Roger Orchard
Great Western Society



