



**Light Rail (UK)**

# All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group



House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

Ref: LR Appling Winter 09 v.1

Light Rail & Trams, Affordable & Sustainable Transport

**“A fair deal for Tram”**

## The Hitman and spur: Music mogul Pete Waterman opens historic tram extension in Heaton Park



Pop impresario and steam train enthusiast Pete Waterman, officially opens the new tram line extension in Heaton Park.

*Meetings by invitation only, where MPs, Stakeholders etc, within the Light Rail industry and invited members of the Public will have a chance to discuss debate and raise questions concerning Light Rail.*

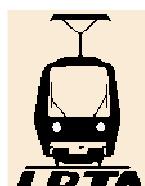
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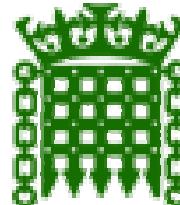
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Manchester's newest tram extension has been unveiled – in Heaton Park.

Members of the Manchester Transport Museum Society have spent months building an extra 360ft of track to the line they run in the park.

It means visitors can now ride the rails from the tram museum at Middleton Road all the way to the café by the lake.

The news comes just days after passengers began travelling on the city's 'other' tram network – Metrolink's multi-million pound south Manchester line.

And there are plans under way to build a new depot for and to extend the route to the Heaton Park Metrolink stop.

Pop guru Pete Waterman, a rail enthusiast who helped open the new section of track, said: "I think it's fantastic. It's a great way to enhance the park and to bring people in."

Trams originally started running in Heaton Park in 1903 bringing visitors from the city centre.

They stopped in the 1930s as more people used buses, but were re-introduced by the society in 1980.

Live on [http://menmedia.co.uk/manchestereveningnews/news/s/1426375\\_the-hitman-and-spur-music-mogul-pete-waterman-opens-historic-tram-extension-in-heaton-park](http://menmedia.co.uk/manchestereveningnews/news/s/1426375_the-hitman-and-spur-music-mogul-pete-waterman-opens-historic-tram-extension-in-heaton-park)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGyR3uAQSkE&feature=player\\_embedded#at=18](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGyR3uAQSkE&feature=player_embedded#at=18)

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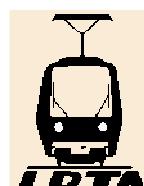
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The Heaton Park tramway, a joint venture between the society and Manchester council, now operates three electric vehicles – including ‘Manchester 765’, one of the city’s original trams

It was restored after being found on a farm being used as a hen house.

The society also runs a horse-drawn tram built in Manchester in 1880 – the only one of its kind still in existence.

The society was formed in 1961 and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this weekend. The trams run on Saturdays and Sundays in the summer.

Plans will soon be submitted to build a tram depot behind the café. We told last year how the society planned to bring four 1930s trams to the park.

It is hoped they will become a permanent fixture once the depot is built.

Derek Shepherd, deputy chairman of the society, said: “This used to be a hobby, but my wife says it has now become a full-time job!

“We’re just pleased that we can still do this. Manchester is the only city in the country with two tram systems – and this is one of them.”

Keith Whitmore, chairman of the Heaton Park Tramway Trust, said: “It’s a great day for the tramway and it now has a new destination next to the lake.

“It does complement all the things we are doing with Metrolink. This is where the tram heritage started.”

Details supplied by Reporter Dean Kirby, Manchester Evening News

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