

Notes of joint meeting of Bishopsteignton Parish Council working group and Teign Estuary Trail Campaign Group on 13 July 2020 at 7pm via Zoom

Present:

Teign Estuary Trail Campaign Group members - Bill Bailey, Ben Northcott & Judith Sharples.

Bishopsteignton Parish Council – Cllrs, Kate Benham, Henry Merritt (Chair), Keith Lambert & Clerk, Kim Ford.

Roger North, Devon County Council

Estelle Skinner, Teignbridge District Council

Apologies:

Teign Estuary Trail Campaign Group members - Rona Boyne & Roger Brewer, BPC Cllr Suzanne Nicholson & Cllr Andrew McGregor, Teignbridge District Council

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Update

Roger and Estelle provided update since the last meeting on 15th May as follows:

Funding

Roger reported phase 1 of central government's commitment to investment in cycling is complete and DCC were awarded £338k to be used on urban pop-up schemes to encourage walking and cycling. It has been indicated that a further grant of potentially £1.3m, may be awarded to DCC in phase 2. Head of transport, and finance colleagues at DCC are aware that the majority of the Teignmouth to Dawlish route being shovel-ready and waiting funds. If the route can be broken into sections, each with a cost, grants may be easier to secure. The section close to Dawlish and Teignmouth are more likely to succeed due to their more urban location than other sections especially as some of the rural locations have landowner issues causing hold-ups.

Estelle reported some uses of the fund above, aimed at urban locations, have been symbol markings for pedestrian and cycle use on the pavement across Shaldon Bridge and a marked cycle route through grounds of Bitton House. Judith suggested perhaps a use for the second round of this grant could be to address the traffic lights at the Shaldon Bridge junction particularly hazardous for cyclist heading along the A381 to/from Teignmouth.

Estelle is in regular contact with Ian Stewart, the SW Regional Development Manager at Sustrans; he is fully informed of development of the TET scheme and is keen to offer support where he can. He hopes that he can advise of any funding that becomes available via Sustrans and is positively promoting the scheme to seniors in Sustrans. *If provided any updates from Mr. Stewart can be appended to these meeting notes.*

Dawlish to Teignmouth

Roger advised that using the proposed inland route most of the Teignmouth to Holcombe section can be carried out using Permitted Development, however the agricultural/kissing

gate issue still requires resolution. It is not simple to change this public right of way to include cycles. Options are still being pursued with the landowner.

The section between Holcombe to Dawlish has some Teign Housing land. most of the route can be carried out using Permitted Development and there are no outstanding landowner issues.

Passage House Inn to Bishopsteignton

Roger advised good progress had been made with the 3 main landowners:

- a. There is an agreement in principle with the first and a Heads of Terms is being reviewed
- b. Positive negotiations are ongoing with the second. The third, Network Rail (NR), is addressing 3 sites. NR have given business and technical clearance on 2 sites. Clearance on the third site is still awaited whilst NR are already drafting a NR / DCC agreement.
- c. Ecological surveys are ongoing, most finished except for a few (newts, bats, dormice) which have been delayed by Covid-19. The surveys are anticipated to be completed in late August/September and available for the planning application submission.

Another issue to be still to be resolved involves the legislation of the County Wildlife Sites (CWS) , specifically their ecological importance of wetland habitats, older trees as wildlife habitats. The outcome of these investigations could result in either felling and use of mitigation planting or minor manipulations of the design. The changes to design might included skirting around the wildlife site using boardwalk, however these can be costly and involve a dedicated programme of future maintenance. Similar issued, are ongoing with marshy lagoon land and may also involve boardwalks and these are still subject to consultation with ecologists from Network Rail and DCC.

Bishopsteignton to Teignmouth

Beyond Luxton Steps there are ongoing negotiations with several landowners in the vicinity of Flow Point. This includes concerns over using the public right of way (Flow Lane) due to land heights and the scheme is most likely to involve the installation of a bridge over Flow Lane. A road safety audit declaring the potential crossing of the A381 at the top of Flow Lane as unsafe means looking at alternatives including the use of land at the Otter Nursery owned land at Jacks Patch. This will involve considerations of trees and another lagoon with potential resolutions as mentioned above.

Ben asked about progress of the average speed cameras along the A381. Roger reported this was progressing through the right channels at DCC and being met with some support.

3. Promotion of the Scheme

Estelle reported efforts will be made late summer and across the autumn to raise awareness of the scheme and positively promote the planning application before it is launched for public consultation. This will not involve face-to-face public events but will mostly be based on social media, websites, cycle groups, walking groups, climate emergency relief groups, parish magazines; in Teignmouth, Bishopsteignton and

Kingsteignton. Roger reported a statutory consultee is the Devon Countryside Access Forum and that he has liaised with Hilary Winter, the forum officer.

4. Other Matters

Bill reported being extremely busy with enquiries and excellent sales at the Bike Shed, mainly because of Covid-19 travel restriction and concerns over public transport.

Henry thanked Roger and Estelle for their positive progress report and for their hard work pursuing the trail.

5. Date of next meeting

This was arranged for Monday 14th September at 7pm via Zoom. Kim will send meeting details.