

Notes of joint meeting of Bishopsteignton Parish Council working group and Teign Estuary Trail Campaign Group on 14 September 2020 at 7pm via Zoom

Present:

Teign Estuary Trail Campaign Group members – Bill Bailey, Ben Northcott, Judith Sharples (note taker)

Bishopsteignton Parish Council - Cllrs Kate Benham, Keith Lambert, Henry Merritt (Chair), Suzanne Nicholson

Roger North, Devon County Council

Estelle Skinner, Teignbridge District Council

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Questions submitted in advance of the meeting

Roger provided a response to questions Judith and Henry had contacted him about as follows:

Riverside Boatyard planning application

Roger read out his Development Control colleagues' response:-The Teign Estuary Trail is a long-term aspiration of Devon County Council. This would provide a safe "off road" pedestrian and cycling route between Newton Abbot and Dawlish Warren following the River Teign and coastline. The Highway Authority would also like to see a link through the site connecting up to footpath 9 to the east as part of the Teign Estuary Trail if this is feasible as there is a likelihood of people commuting on foot/ cycle to the site for work.

Roger had previously been in contact with the developer and discussed the County Council's long term aspiration to connect the Teign Estuary Trail to Teignmouth town centre by means of a structure in the river from the boatyard to the northernmost arch of Shaldon Bridge. Due to opposition from ABP to provision of the cycle trail through the port, the County Council has also explored the option of a route that would follow the north side of the railway line into the town centre. Roger advised that his current remit is only to develop plans for the section up to the junction for Morrisons.

Funding for Dawlish to Teignmouth section

Roger advised that none of the Government funding allocated for pop-up schemes or for more permanent schemes would be spent on the section from Dawlish to Teignmouth as this scheme did not fit the criteria for the funding.

3. Update

Roger provided an update on progress since the last meeting on 13 July as follows:

Progress with planning application

Roger reported that, following the completion of the various surveys, a number of issues of concern have been raised relating to the impact on County Wildlife Sites and there are differences of view about the alignment of the route. To try and reach agreement, Roger's client (Dave Black and Hannah Clarke) have requested that statutory consultees are invited to a Value Management Workshop which will probably take place on 22 October and will be led by an independent person. As a result, the target which Roger reported at the last meeting of reaching agreement on the preferred route by the end of July had not been achieved. If the outcome of the workshop is that the preferred route is different to that discussed with landowners, this may necessitate further negotiations with landowners and potentially lead to further delays.

Following the Value Management Workshop, there will be a public consultation exercise before the planning application is submitted. Estelle advised that this would probably take 3 to 4 weeks and could involve the use of Facebook as well as more traditional means such as the local newspaper to let members of the public know what is planned and seek their views. Roger confirmed that evidence of public support from previous consultation exercises and the petition could also be used as evidence of public support.

At present, the planning application is unlikely to be submitted towards the end of 2020 and it is more likely to be in early 2021.

Estelle asked whether the Development Management Team will be invited to the workshop. Roger undertook to investigate this.

Roger advised that Sustrans would be invited. Estelle confirmed she is still in contact with Ian Stewart, the SW Regional Development Manager at Sustrans. Sustrans are putting together a list of priority schemes for funding in the South West and this includes the section from Dawlish to Teignmouth and the Teign Estuary Trail itself.

Section from Dawlish to Teignmouth

Roger advised that his colleagues had been in recent contact with Network Rail regarding access to the land adjacent to where the agricultural gates are located. The use of a CPO is possible or the Cycle Tracks Act is still being considered.

Funding

Henry asked what impact recent Government policy papers were likely to have on future access to funding and whether schemes in urban areas would be prioritised over those in more rural areas. Roger expressed the view that connectivity of such schemes with rural ones would help deliver DCC's strategic aim of delivering the Teign Estuary Trail to link from Dawlish via Teignmouth to Newton Abbot

Speed limit on A381

Roger reported that his road safety audit colleagues and traffic engineers had expressed support for a 30 mph speed limit between Bishopsteignton and Teignmouth supported by the use of speed cameras to enforce this but a decision is still awaited. Speed detectors are currently in use and the data from this is being analysed.

Other issues

Judith asked what was happening regarding the plans to create a cycle route through Bitton Park which Estelle had reported at the last meeting. Estelle advised that there was insufficient funding to pursue this.

Henry thanked Roger and Estelle for their comprehensive progress report and for their hard work and perseverance.

4. Date of next meeting

This was arranged for Monday 9 November at 7pm via Zoom.