

Notes of joint meeting of Bishopsteignton Parish Council working group and Teign Estuary Trail Campaign Group on 9 November 2020 at 7pm via Zoom

Present:

Teign Estuary Trail Campaign Group members – Bill Bailey, Rona Boyne, 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. Notes of last meeting

Henry checked that there were no amendments to, or comments on, the notes of the meeting on 14th September. Judith queried why the notes had not yet been published on the parish council's website. Henry agreed to look into this.

3. Update on preparations for the planning application

Roger provided an update on progress as follows:

Value management workshop

All statutory consultees were invited to this workshop which took place on 22 October via Zoom. Not everyone who was invited could attend but a good cross-section of about 30 people took part. The Environment Agency sent apologies but will receive the minutes. Network Rail and Sustrans were represented. The purpose of the workshop was to gather representatives' impressions of the proposed scheme and receive any comment they might have.

Estelle advised that the workshop had been helpful in identifying key issues in advance of the planning application so that these could be addressed before the formal application was submitted. It is hoped that this will enable the application to be processed more quickly and efficiently.

Public consultation

Devon County Council is holding a public consultation from 17th November to 18th December to seek views on the proposed trail. This will include a webinar at 6pm on 25 November and a virtual drop-in session at 5pm on 9 December. Roger displayed a draft poster giving details of these events and also an address for people to submit comments in writing.

Judith queried whether people will also be able to submit feedback via email. Roger and Estelle confirmed that this would be the case and there would also be an online questionnaire people could complete. Judith also suggested that it needed to be made clear that this consultation was in advance of the planning application and that there would be a further opportunity to comment on the planning application itself. Suzanne suggested that it should be described as pre-planning consultation to make this clear.

Roger agreed to pass these comments on to Hannah.

Dave Black, Head of DCC Planning, Transport and Environment, will send letters to all key stakeholders on 12th November advising them of the consultation. County and district councillors will also be notified. The information will be sent to Henry as the representative of Bishopsteignton Parish Council and to Judith as the representative of the Teign Estuary Trail campaign group. Judith queried whether other local town and parish councils would be notified of the consultation. Estelle said that their communications team would promote the consultation in the Town and Parish Council newsletter.

In advance of the consultation, letters have been sent today to the 7 affected landowners advising them of the latest proposals. The proposed scheme has been modified to take account of the environmental and ecological issues raised by statutory consultees and it is not known how landowners will respond.

Latest proposed scheme

Roger displayed 2 maps showing the latest proposed route from Passage House to the A381 where there will be a road crossing to La Roche Maurice Walk. He outlined the key details and clarified the following in response to questions:

- The surface of the existing right of way from Metro Motors to Luxton Steps will be improved to make it suitable for cyclists;
- Flow Lane will not provide an access route to the trail and a bridge will be built over Flow Lane close to the railway line;
- It is still intended to introduce a 30 mph speed limit on the A381 all the way from Metro Motors to Teignmouth and to take measures to enforce the speed limit;
- It is now likely to submit the planning application in Spring 2021;
- The planning application will be determined by Devon County Council as it is a strategic route; Teignbridge District Council are statutory consultees.
- The Teign Estuary Trail is still one of Devon County Council strategic aims. One Planning approval and land agreements are in place Devon County Council will be in a better position to attract funding, but it may still be a challenge.

Henry commented that the maps are very clear. Roger advised that 3 separate large-scale drawings will be available during the public consultation.

4. Other issues

Judith queried whether Sustrans had been approached again to see if there was any funding for the section from Dawlish to Teignmouth. Estelle agreed to pursue this with Ian Stewart. She understands that this section, together with the Teign Estuary Trail itself, are on Sustrans list of priority schemes.

Bill asked whether any of the £1.35m government funding allocated to DCC for more permanent schemes might be available for the Dawlish to Teignmouth section. Estelle said the funding was intended to be used to make the successful temporary pop up schemes introduced in the summer more permanent and that some of this funding is being used for improved road crossings in Newton Abbot. The spend in Newton Abbot is being directed to making the three temporary pedestrian / cyclist crossings on Jetty Marsh Road, Exeter Road and Ashburton Road permanent. These have had good use and good feedback. There was also spending directed to Exeter and Barnstaple for permanent measures. Roger suggested that the campaign group contact Hannah Clark for more information on this funding.

Henry asked what the campaign group would be doing to publicise the consultation and encourage people to give their views. Ben advised that he had been contacted by Katalin Fulop of DCC asking for the consultation events to be advertised in the Bishopsteignton Village News. Judith said the group could also publicise the consultation on its own Facebook page and also ask for it to be shared on other Facebook pages that were popular with local residents such as the Teignmouth Oracle. Estelle advised that the consultation would also be advertised in the local newspapers including the Teignmouth Post.

It was agreed that everyone should encourage people to take part in the consultation as evidence of strong public support would strengthen the planning application.

Henry thanked Roger and Estelle for another very helpful update and for all the hard work they have undertaken to get the planning application to this stage.

5. Date of next meeting

This was arranged for Monday 8th February at 7pm via Zoom.