

Notes of joint meeting of Bishopsteignton Parish Council working group and Teign Estuary Trail Campaign Group on 8 February 2021 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)

Cllr Ron Peart, Devon County Council

Cllr Andrew MacGregor, Teignbridge District Council

Roger North, Devon County Council

Estelle Skinner, Teignbridge District Council

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Matters arising from last meeting on 9 November 2020

None.

3. Update on preparations for the planning application

Roger provided an update on the consultation exercise which had taken place from 17 November to 18 December. This had included a webinar on 25 November and virtual drop-in session on 9 December. The webinar had been very well attended and a lot of questions had been asked about the proposed route itself, arrangements for accessing it from Bishopsteignton and the plans to get from Morrisons to Teignmouth town centre. Discussions with landowners who raised concerns are continuing. If agreement with landowners cannot be reached, it may be necessary to pursue CPOs which could delay the project by a further 2 years.

DCC is also considering what can be done to improve visibility for people with driveways next to the proposed trail. The introduction of a 30 mph speed limit should also help.

Roger also reported that 2,975 online questionnaires had been completed. 98% were in favour of the scheme in general and 97% said they would use the trail. 6% were not in favour of the proposed alignment. Roger said this was a fantastic result and DCC had not received such an overwhelmingly positive response to any other consultation it had carried out.

Roger thanked the parish council and the campaign group for promoting the consultation and encouraging people to take part. Ben reported that the campaign group's post on Facebook had been shared 419 times and had reached 70,872 people.

Roger reported that he and Estelle would be attending a DCC Board meeting on 16 February to talk about next steps following the consultation and whether the planning application should be submitted in the spring.

Roger expects DCC to publish a report giving details of the results of the consultation shortly after this Board meeting. He will notify the parish council and campaign group when the report is published.

4. Network Rail plans

Estelle advised that Network Rail had received 1,600 responses to their consultation on the realignment of the railway line between Teignmouth and Holcombe. The plans are being revised in the light of comments received and a further consultation exercise is planned for 2021.

Roger reported that a meeting with Network Rail had taken place in December to consider options for incorporating provision for cyclists in the plans. Ian Stewart from Sustrans had attended this meeting. The option of a multi-use path next to the sea wall is still being considered. This could be in addition to the inland route for which DCC has already drawn up plans.

5. Funding issues

Roger advised that the completion of the section from Dawlish to Holcombe would cost around £0.75m and the completion of the whole route from Dawlish to Teignmouth would cost between £1.7m and £2m. Sustrans has not yet been able to identify any funding for this. Judith queried whether the Levelling Up Fund which the government announced in November might be a potential source of funding.

Kate has also provided details of grants of up to £100k from South West Water for community projects which can include increasing physical activity. She also suggested that the government may provide further funding for initiatives to tackle climate change in the run up to the G7 summit in Cornwall in June and COP 26 in Glasgow in November.

6. Other issues

Cllr MacGregor asked what was happening with the Riverside Boatyard development and the proposal to build a trail from there to Teignmouth town centre. Roger said his colleagues had had discussions with the developer but the construction of a boardwalk from the boatyard to Polly Steps would be very expensive.

Henry thanked Roger and Estelle for another very helpful and positive update.

7. Date of next meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 11th May at 7pm.