

Teign Estuary Trail – stakeholder meeting 22nd November 2024

In attendance: Bill Bailey (Campaign Group), Neil Blaney (TDC), Kate Brown (Campaign Group), Arron Carpenter (DCC), Joran Facey (DCC), Cllr Jackie Hook (TDC), Josh Manning, Cllr Henry Merritt (Bishopsteignton), Cllr David Palethorpe (TDC), Estelle Skinner, Cllr Gary Taylor (TDC), Cllr Martin Wrigley (MP), Nick Yabsley (Newton Abbot)

Apologies: Lauren Allington, Cllr Ron Peart (DCC), Judith Sharples (Campaign Group)

Cllr Henry Merritt highlighted that he is pleased and willing to continue to chair the TET stakeholder meetings but is very welcome to anyone putting forward other suggestions:

- Cllr Martin Wrigley shared thanks to Cllr Henry Merritt for chairing the stakeholder meetings and raised that this is positive in terms of the local / community led approach of TDC.
- Other attendees also raised their support for this approach.

Update on Tourism Opportunities Report & Outline Business Case for TET (Estelle Skinner)

- Tourism Opportunities Report produced by Urban Foresight (contractor).
- Included workshop to gather ideas on opportunities.
- Longlist produced based on all ideas / feedback.
- Shortlist with case studies, such as uplift for local walking groups / Ramblers.
- ES to circulate to stakeholder group.
- Outline Business Case produced by Jacobs.
- Incorporates the tourism opportunities report.
- Considers key benefits against financial cost of the project delivery.
- Key benefits including improved air quality, reduced pressure on NHS, reduced absence from work, reduced traffic incidence risk for vulnerable road users, natural capital benefits (increase access to natural outdoor environment), tourism & day trip uplift benefits.
- Cost of project, estimate in broad region of £44 million (consideration of timeframe for delivery).
- Benefit cost ratio output is just over 2:1, which means just over £2 benefits per £1 cost of delivery of the project.
- This evidences a high value for money case for this project and means it should be appealing to external funding sources, provide the right funding pot becomes available (much of Government funding has been focused within cities & towns rather than multi-user trails).
- ES thanked all for the input into this process, including letters of support.
- Kate Brown spoke at Teignmouth Town Council meeting recently to promote the project & Cllrs committed to providing a letter of support. Kate is following up with Shaldon Parish Council regarding a letter of support.
- ES to circulate Strategic Dimension of the outline business case with stakeholder group.
- Cllr Martin Wrigley noted that Government is keen to support active travel and he will be promoting the TET and the need for funding for multi-user trails that provide very significant local benefits.
- Cllr Henry Merritt noted the positive step from evidencing the good outputs of the business case, which means that further TDC funding is unlocked and also that it can support an external funding bid once there is a suitable external funding pot.
- Bill Bailey noted that this is positive and can respond to any concerns regarding the overall value of delivering the Trail.

Next steps, funding agreement & website update (Josh Manning)

- TDC sought Full Council approval in Nov 2023 for CIL funding of £50,000 to produce the outline business case and provided that it showed good outputs to commit further CIL funding to support further design work and to support land acquisition.
- The funding agreement between TDC & DCC is to be finalised imminently and includes £550,000 from TDC and £900,000 from DCC towards all the Phase 3 design work and to support Phase 3 land acquisition.
- The rationale for focusing on Phase 3 include multiple considerations:
 - Phase 3 was agreed by all at the stakeholder workshop (September 2023) as the priority section of the TET due to there being no current footway provision & very poor on-road conditions for cycling.
 - This phase connects two existing communities effectively.
 - There are fewer landowners to negotiate with on this phase.
 - Resource means that it is necessary to focus on a particular phase rather than spread efforts across multiple phases, for the best chance of meaningful progress and success.
- The attendees of the meeting echoed the need for Phase 3 as a priority.
- Cllr Martin Wrigley was assured that broad costs are understood for each phase.
- The DCC webpage for Teign Estuary Trail will be updated imminently and a press release will be issued to update all on the key progress made.
- ES will notify the stakeholder group once this has gone live.

Design progress, upcoming work (Arron & Jordan)

- Arron and Jordan of the Engineering Design Team at DCC will be leading on the design work needed for Phase 3 of the Teign Estuary Trail.
- This work will be carried out over the next 3-year period, given the scale of design work needed.
- This will provide all the designs needed for Phase 3.
- This design work is due to commence imminently, as soon as the funding agreement between TDC & DCC is completed.
- This will provide a notable further step forward with the project.
- There are various engineering features within the project, such as boardwalks to avoid disturbance to important saltmarsh habitats.

Land negotiations (Josh Manning)

- John Penaligon will be continuing to lead on this aspect for DCC.
- He will be focusing on Phase 3 but will keep live conversations with other landowners.
- Cllr Martin Wrigley has raised with the Harbour Association the possible option for TET route alignment along the Teignmouth Port.

Update on Local Transport Plan 4 & Devon Countywide LCWIP

- Workshops have been held by DCC and they are keen to receive as much feedback as possible ahead of end November 2024.
- The TET is a key project in both documents.
- In the Devon Countywide LCWIP, the TET is the second project in terms of priority and the one ahead of TET is one due to commence on-site imminently.
- Judith Sharples has produced a response on behalf of the TET Campaign Group – Cllr J. Hook asked could this be circulated & it was agreed that it will be circulated to the TET stakeholder group.

Next meeting date

- Suggestion that this is circa late Feb / early March 2025.

- Josh noted will need to avoid DCC pre-election period ahead of DCC elections.
- Friday mornings appear to remain a good time for the majority.
- Estelle to share prospective meeting date after checking on DCC pre-election period and check on timeframe for LTP4 / Devon Countywide LCWIP review.