

Draft Notes: Chisholm Trail Local Liaison Form Meeting 15.5.18

Date: Tuesday 15th May 2018

Time: 18.00

Venue: Shirley Primary School, Nuffield Road, Cambridge,

Present – LLF Members

Cllr Noel Kavanagh (Cambridgeshire County Council)

Cllr Ian Manning (Cambridgeshire County Council)

Cllr Carla McQueen (Cambridge City)

Cllr Gerri Bird (Cambridge City)

Cllr Nicky Massey (Cambridge City)

Cllr Anna Bradnam (Cambridgeshire County Council)

Cllr Hazel Smith (South Cambridgeshire District Council)

Present – Greater Cambridge Partnership

Mike Davies

Livia Oldland

Lesley Hoyle

Present – Carillion

Tabitha Boniface

Henry Casement

Organisational Representation Present From the Following:

Camcycle

Cambridge Past, Present & Future

Apologies

Ian Bates (Cambridgeshire County Council)

Mark England (Milton Parish Council)

Welcome

Meeting Start: 6pm

Attendees were welcomed by the Chair who introduced himself and thanked people for attending the meeting. Attendees were asked to sign in if want to be kept informed about the project.

Notes from Previous Meeting

The following question and action from the previous notes was raised and the follow up requested:

Q – Planning conditions relating access to Ditton Meadows were queried. Will Ditton Meadows be fenced off?

A - It is a landowner requirement and as such the College has decided it wants fencing in place.

Friends of Ditton Meadow expressed concern that this was not made clear during the consultation process.

Action – Noel Kavanagh (Chair) /Ian Manning (Vice Chair) agreed will follow this up.

It was noted that the above was specifically referring to fencing on both sides.

All other notes agreed as accurate.

The Chair requested that questions were asked after each of the 3 presentations. Time permitting once the meeting is closed, GCP and Capita Officers would be available to answer more detailed questions on a 1 to 1 basis.

Project Update – Mike Davies (GCP)

The presentation can be viewed here: <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/chisholm-trail/chisholm-trail-local-liaison-forum/>

In summary:

A brief history of the project was presented together with a reminder of the trail route and key project phases.

18 land agreements are required for the length of the trail.

Railway track has been removed by volunteers who will be installing the track in Norfolk.

17 pre commencement conditions need to be signed off. The primary focus is on bridge related ones first. There have been some resubmissions which have put the project timeframe back.

The recommendation for timber fence and hedge at Ditton Meadows has been submitted and it is hoped a decision will be reached in June.

Good progress has been made with Network Rail and approval for track possessions have been received.

A specialist contract administrator has been appointed. Carillion and Tarmac were the original contractors prior to the Carillion collapsing. The contract has now seamlessly been moved to Tarmac and the original Carillion officers have moved over to Tarmac to continue work on the 18 month construction contract.

A site office will be set up in Ditton walk.

When placing the underpass under Newmarket Road there will be night time closures, potentially over Easter 2019. The underpass will be built on wheels and rolled into position within an 80 hour window. The location is in a high risk area with services and a possible and a possible archaeological site near the Leper Chapel, hence archaeologists will be on site during the work to monitor the site and intervene as required.

The bridge will be manufactured in Yorkshire and then transported in sections to Cambridge where it will be welded together and put into place.

Phase 1 of the project is scheduled for completion autumn 2019.

The Millennium cycle path will be closed for some time and there will be a 2- way light system for river traffic. The team are trying to work around the river based event calendar as much as possible. There will be occasional restrictions to the tow path.

The bridge naming process has been finalised and will involve the LLF.

For Phase 2, approval have been granted for widening roads in Coldhams Common.

Questions:

Q - Is there the possibility of linking Fen Road to the "elbow" of the down ramp and leave an access here? Could designs consider this as a possibility in the future?

A -Yes this can be considered but not as part of the Chisholm Trail project. The project will not be finished in that area in July 2019. It was agreed to discuss this further.

Q – Clarity around the bridge naming process and LLF involvement was discussed.

A – The LLF will be involved in the process. The Chair suggested this matter should be discussed in detail at another time.

Q: Are there plans to include reform for cycling through station square to improve cyclist safety?

A: Chair response: There is a growing lobby about the issue among councillors. As Chisholm Trail is making its way into the vicinity of the station square there will be a push to improve safety.

Q: Will the bridge be open before the opening of the trail?

A – No – it will be shut off for some time.

Q: Could this be changed in the schedule?

A: Mike Davies agreed to look into the program of works with the contractor. The aim is to complete the project as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Q: Concerns were expressed around the safety of pedestrians crossing Fen Road.

A - The trail does have to cross 2 lanes of traffic across Fen Road and this is deemed safe and the optimal solution by the consultants. The path down to the tow path will be tarmac, making it a more attractive alternative route. An independent safety audit has taken place for the crossing point and other options have been considered.

Q: Summarise what exactly the land ownership agreement means.

A: GCP has agreed a 250 year licence for the ramp from National Rail and will be responsible for landscaping.

Q: What will be the alternative cycle routes when the bridge is closed?

A – The bridge closure will be coordinated to ensure that alternative routes are always available.

Q - Fen Road has a narrow pavement, which side will pedestrians' walk on?

A – The other side to the river. The project includes increasing the width of the pavement here.

Q: Mike – what was the question about pavement movement meeting....concerning about the safety conditions of the road and not improving the safety in the project.

A: We were not invited to the CCC meeting. We have been open to other suggestions and they have been considered. It's a 6m width road, clear visibility on a 20mph zone. Vice chair suggests it is not down to mike to address this well known safety issue. ~~check with mike**

Ecology – Tabitha Boniface, Capita

It was confirmed that all presentations will be made available online. The ecology presentation can be found:

In summary:

Capita has been involved in the Chisholm Trail project involved for about 1 year, having taken over from Atkins. An ecologist has been onsite daily since Feb 2018.

An ecology survey to Barnwell Junction was undertaken to inform the ecology strategy going forward.

The site comprises of a network of Country and City wildlife sites, with varying level of management across them.

The team has received anecdotal evidence of reptiles and so started to survey for them.

Scrub and tree clearance started before nesting (which was later this Spring due to the harsh weather)

Where nesting has been found the areas have been cordoned off until fledglings have left.

Bat licensed ecologist support has been undertaken to the project.

5 ecologists looked for water voles as part of pre commencement survey. Despite regular, frequent checking, no voles have been found. It is hoped that landscape enhancements will help water voles in the future.

A Daudenton bat roost has been found mitigation has been put in place.

There has been no evidence of great crested newts.

Reptiles are currently being assessed. Grass snakes and the common lizard have been found in low numbers.

The Chair thanked Tabitha, and her colleague Ann who has been working on site, and the questions were invited.

Q: In Ditton Walk the woodpecker has not been seen this year and the tree was felled. Why weren't the residents consulted?

Comment - Would like to put on record that consulting residents should be part of other schemes.

A – The whole project has gone through a very thorough process. Desk top base line surveys provided background data as part of the planning approvals process. It was noted that Atkins, not Capita undertook this. The standard remit does not local resident consultation. It was noted that Capita work to professional code of conduct and guidelines to protect wildlife in a frame work of legislation and good practice.

Comment – This highlights that GCP project scheme has brought in specialist skills where required.

Comment – The Chair noted that LLF meetings are advertised, and those with ecology interest have the opportunity to come to the meeting.

Landscape Update – Henry Casement and Tim X, Capita

An overview of the landscape strategy was provided.

Example tree, shrubs, native grasses and wildflowers which are proposed for Chisholm Trail were presented.

Due to the detailed nature of the plans, attendees were invited to view the printed version and ask questions on a 1 to 1 basis at the close of the meeting.

The Vice Chair referred to a recent meeting with GCP where LLF Chair and Vice Chairs requested better audio visual technology for meetings.

General questions were invited:

Q: To what extend do you work from a landscape design guide as per the resolution of the LLF.

A: Resolutions go to project board to decide whether or not a resolution will be accepted. In this instance the landscape architects were already working on the project so the resolution was not accepted.

Comment – Concern was expressed that this resolution was not accepted and was not presented to the GCP Executive Board.

Comment from GCP – It was noted that the Chisholm Trail project was up and running before the LLF was established and officers are working to the terms of reference of this specific LLF, which may well differ to other LLFs.

Comment – A member of the public (landowner) commented on not having seen the plans before the meeting and felt this was unacceptable as they include plans for landscaping on his land without consultation.

Action required - Vice Chair requested an explanation as to why this has happened.

Officers commented that any feedback from the meeting would be welcome.

GCP Officer apologised to the landowner in question.

Action – GCP to clarify if the landscape plans have been in the public domain before the meeting and if so when.

Comment from GCP Officer - The material is in the public domain as part of the planning application and discharge of conditions. This is a standard process. The officer agreed to provide a written explanation to the LLF.

Comment - It was suggested that the LLF could have been informed when plans were available online or shared with the LLF before being submitted.

Action – The Vice Chair will ensure that more information about the landscape plan is made available to the LLF on the understanding that it will not affect the project schedule in place. This may possibly take the form of a separate meeting.

Comment – Suggest Joint Development Control Committee could be approached about the perceived lack of consultation.

Resolutions

Each meeting we report back on the progress update on all previous resolutions.

The Chair thanked people for coming along and asks for those interested in detailed plans to look and discuss with the officers.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm