

TWO TUNNELS GREENWAY

MEETING OF THE TTG/BathNES/Sustrans STEERING GROUP HELD AT THE GUILDHALL BATH ON 15 DEC 08

MAIN POINTS AND ACTIONS

Present:	TTG	Gitte Dawson	Chair
	TTG	Rob Shiels	Committee Member
	Sustrans	Adrian Roper	Director South West
	BathNES Council	Neil Butters	Councillor
	BathNES Council	Paul Crossley	Councillor
	BathNES Council	Adrian Clarke	Transportation & Planning
	BathNES Council	Alison Sherwin	Area Traffic Engineer
		Caroline Clayden	Mendip Cross Trails Trust
	TTG	Frank Tompson	Secretary

1. Apologies

Richard Backhouse, Head Monkton Combe School, advised that due to other pressures he considered it appropriate that he should step down from the Steering Group. He would, however, continue to support the project. Members reluctantly accepted his resignation and thanked him for his contribution to date.

2. Feedback from David Trigwell/Malcolm Shepherd Meeting

This had concentrated on 4 main areas;

- 1 Land Ownership* – The Council was now to take control of all land on the route before work could commence. However, clarification was required on: the **Midford Castle Stretch**, access to **Lyncombe Vale** from Watery Bottom Bridge and **Tucking Mill Viaduct**
- 2 MOU – on how BathNES Council/Sustrans would work together **
- 3 Sustrans Business Case – this would be with the Council by mid-Jan 09
- 4 Council letting a contract to Sustrans to conduct the work – by end Feb/end Mar

From all of this no 'show-stoppers' were identified.

* The Midford Castle stretch is dependent upon the agreement of Nicolas Cage (see AOB below) to proceed. However, this should be no cause for delay as it was not included in the planning application and an (albeit second-rate) option exists to join the Colliers Way at Tucking Mill. AR is establishing ownership of the Watery Bottom area so that discussions can be held with land owners. This should also not be considered an issue as an option exists to join the path by creating a new ramp on Council land with a site already identified. FT can clarify further if required on map or on site. Tucking Mill Viaduct ownership may not be resolved by the time a contract is signed, but the risk is low. DT should agree to proceed at his next meeting with MS.

To ensure that TTG remained informed of developments, Adrian Roper volunteered to update TTG following the meetings, the next 2 being scheduled for 16 Jan and 13 Mar 09. The meetings are due to finish at 5 pm, hence a brief meeting immediately after at the Raven (close to Trimbridge House) would be convenient.

Action: AR

Action: FT to address TTG attendance

TTG would also flag-up concerns/issues and feed them in direct to MS/DT prior to meetings.

Action: GD/FT

4. Project Management

Appointment of a Sustrans Project Manager – The job description for this full time post would be on the Sustrans website by Xmas and advertised fully early in the new-year. The successful candidate would likely be working primarily on Two Tunnels issues in the early days to ensure a viable programme is put in place and to start the contract tendering process.

Action: AR to send a copy of the job description to Rob Shiels who has a potential secondment candidate in mind

Revised programme of work starting early 09 – Sustrans had commissioned work to dig out Devonshire Tunnel this financial year, ie by 31 Mar 09 and Simon Ballantine had been commissioned to coordinate. This was the one piece of **excellent news** and will at last demonstrate real work taking place to build the path. Given its relatively straightforward nature, Sustrans would endeavour to at least start laying tarmac on the path towards Monksdale Road within the same timescale.

Action: AR

It was suggested that The Council would require its own independent survey to ensure the integrity of tunnels and bridges. Particularly as additional cost would be involved this was challenged, as the professional advice of a qualified engineer engaged by Sustrans should logically suffice for The Council.

Action: AR/AC to raise for a decision at the next DT/MS meeting

Phase 1 implementation – spending FY 08/09 BathNES Council contribution – It was confirmed that funds may be rolled over to the next financial year should this be required.

It was confirmed that work will continue to be planned in phases. This would satisfy the requirements of both the Big Lottery and BathNES Council.

Planning application for bridges - Trees survey – As Mark Cassidy was not in attendance at this meeting an update on the long outstanding action from the 15 Sep 08 meeting was unavailable. This was, of course, only the start of the long process to gain planning permission to remove trees prior to the installation of bridges. Once received by Sustrans it was essential that the planning application was submitted promptly so that work on removing trees would begin before bird nesting season.

PMN: MC has confirmed the tree survey has been completed

Tunnel Lighting – Hydrock had been engaged by Sustrans to produce a specification/design for basic lighting (which would also facilitate CCTV operation) at no-cost. A Combe Down Tunnel site visit was scheduled for 21 Jan 09 to start this process. Paul Crossley requested to be included in the visit. It had been agreed that BathNES Council would provide electricity for lighting at no cost.

Action: FT to advise a TTG a representative to attend.

Southwest Tourism had expressed an interest in assisting with the provision of artistic lighting and Sustrans was preparing a bid.

Action: AR

Tucking Mill Viaduct – The new Sustrans project manager would address the work package required and respond to Nigel Bryant's proposed programme of work of Aug 08.

5. Funding

Safe Routes to Schools – Alison Sherwin had conducted some initial work. This was most important as it could potentially secure a six figure sum. She and Adrian Roper were to discuss further after this meeting.

Action: AS and AR

Matched funding would not be available from the Council.

King Bladud Pigs – The meeting expressed its thanks to Gitte Dawson for her outstanding work in securing £200k for the project. Adrian Roper would discuss with his Finance people the best way for these funds to be transferred to the Project – ie whether to Sustrans or to the Council – to minimise risk of losing any of it to VAT or other tax.

Action: AR

6. Northern Links

The western route down Inverness Road, along the Lower Bristol Road (with southern pavement widened) and across the Fieldings Road Bridge via the southern side of the (upgraded to Toucan) crossing would be included in the Council's roads/cycling priority list. The list was assessed Feb/Mar each year and published.

Action: AS to advise TTG when the review is to be conducted to ensure that appropriate lobbying can be conducted if required to ensure success

The route of the eastern link into the Western Riverside Development had yet to be resolved, with issues including a possible new Tesco store on the old Bath Press site and redevelopment of Roseberry Place. It was essential that planning applications did not come and go without due consideration of the Two Tunnels Project.

Action: GD to check if any relevant planning applications have been made.

7. Community involvement

Richard Backhouse advised that some 3-12 pupils could be made available w/c 4 Jul 09 as part of Monkton Combe School's community involvement week.

Action: AR/FT to note for future reference

Martin Sadd, TTG, was to arrange a meeting with Gerry Hannon Sustrans to discuss matters of mutual interest and for Gerry to hopefully give Martin some pointers.

Action: FT to put in hand

Adrian Roper confirmed that Frank Tompson's propose list of community tasks was acceptable and could be publicised to interested parties.

8. Use by Horses

Caroline Clayden outlined the case for horse usage and cited the 2005 BathNES Council policy, which, she said, generally supported access by horses on all future shared use paths, which would automatically include the Two Tunnels route. Paul Crossley reported from a meeting with Cllr Charles Gerrish that he, also, favoured this approach and that a decision report would soon be published. Cllr Gerrish had also promised that he would not make a decision for at least two weeks after publication of the report to allow ample opportunity for comment.

Adrian Clarke (who would be writing the report) stated that this was not his understanding; rather, that The Council maintained a general aspiration to improve access for horses, including through the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan issued in 2007, but judging each route on its merits and on the basis of whether it was needed to establish a network of circular routes. He did not consider the Two Tunnels to be entirely appropriate.

Caroline argued that horse riders should no more need to establish a need than any other shared path user.

The meeting agreed that the decision was one for The Council and would await developments.

Action: PC/CC to respond to CG's paper

Action: PC/CC to advise Steering Group members of the decision once taken so it can be considered in the context of the Two Tunnels Project and the matter taken forward

9. AOB

Sustrans Management Board Visit to the Project – The recent visit had been a great success and thanks went to all those that had been involved. The Board considered Two Tunnels to be one of the best community led Connect2 project in the southwest and possibly in the country.

Midford Castle Stretch – Rupert Crosbie had made contact with Nic Cage's agent of his estate, but, as is often the case with such issues, progress was painfully slow.

Combe Down Tunnel Open Day – Following contact from Widcombe Residents Association Frank Tompson had provisionally agreed 27 Jun 09 as the open day date. Adrian Roper would formally approach Wessex Water following the 21 Jan 09 visit with Hydrock.

Action: FT to advise Widcombe RA accordingly.

10. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Tue 10 Feb 09 at 2.30pm. Dome Room, Guildhall, Bath.

Action: Neil Butters has booked room and refreshments.

17 Dec 08

Frank Tompson
Secretary