

## TWO TUNNELS GREENWAY

### MEETING OF THE TTG/BathNES Council/Sustrans STEERING GROUP HELD AT TRIMBRIDGE HOUSE BATH ON 19 FEB 10

#### MAIN POINTS AND ACTIONS

<b>Present:</b>	TTG	Gitte Dawson	Chair
	Sustrans	Tim Temple	Connect2 Manager
	BathNES Council	Paddy Tully	TT Project Manager
		Cllr Roger Symonds	Council Cycling Champion
		Cllr Neil Butters	Councillor, Bathavon South
	TTG	Adrian Clarke	Transport Policy Manager
		Frank Tompson	Secretary

#### 1. Apologies

Nil.

#### 2. Main Points and Actions from 8 Jan 10 meeting

Adrian was to provide Paddy with a breakdown of the £80k (now £75k) estimated Council fees and charges which he had done.

**Action:** AC also to circulate to other Steering Group members

#### 3. BathNES Council Approval to Proceed and Signing of the MOU

**Council Decision** - The decision to proceed had been taken on 15 Feb 10 and published on The Council website.

**MOU** - The MOU between The Council, Sustrans and the TTG had been agreed and was signed by the three parties at the meeting. This was duly welcomed as a hugely important milestone in enabling the project to move ahead.

Two other MOUs remained to be signed by The Council and Sustrans, both connected with safer routes to school (SRS) funding. One of them involved one of the new bridges, neither of which yet had planning permission and this could possibly present a problem over signing. However, SRS funding was currently oversubscribed, so prompt signature – perhaps "subject to planning permission" – was important. Paddy would speak with his colleagues to facilitate wording which would hopefully enable Adrian to sign promptly.

**Action:** PT/AC

The planning application for the two new bridges would be submitted by Sustrans within the next 2 months. (They are the last two elements to be delivered on the project plan.)

#### 4. Project Management

**Project Plan** - Paddy distributed a project plan in GANTT chart form which *currently* showed forecast completion, including the two new bridges, by Sep 11. The plan would be made public after scrutiny and agreement with the new Council project manager. A meeting was scheduled for w/c 23 Feb 10 to discuss the PM's appointment with the Manager of the Council's Design & Projects Group.

The Council advised that it would not wish to take on the cost of closing the tunnel gates in the unlikely event of this being required – which cost would then fall to Sustrans. Sustrans would therefore be required to consider their position and Paddy undertook to discuss internally with colleagues.

**Action:** PT

The Tunnel Management Plan (TMP) omitted any reference to the fact that Police Designing Out Crime Unit advice that risk of criminal activity within the tunnels was not considered to be an issue. Reference to The Police being included in the consultation process should closure be proposed, would be incorporated in the TMP wording.

**Action:** PT

**Digging Out Devonshire Tunnel** – Paddy had submitted the necessary details to discharge the original planning conditions with regard to Devonshire Tunnel in mid-January but no progress had been made. Neil Harvey in The Council Planning Dept had now undertaken to deal with this by 26 Feb 10. This date could not be missed or it would be impossible to complete the work by end Mar 10, thereby qualifying for the available Railway Heritage Trust grant. Roger had reminded Glen Chipp of the issue and agreed to continue monitoring the situation to ensure clearance to time.

**Action:** RS

Contractor (Hope and Clay) start on site was planned for Mon 1 Mar 10, with physical digging starting Mon 8 Mar 10.

**Lyncombe Vale Cycle Link** - This would continue to be investigated but remained difficult to attain due to the position of local land owners. The option of cutting up through the unused allotments space to the path side of the stream might be a possibility but would be expensive and would require Council agreement and local support. The project would be in no position to pay compensation for land lost as a result. Paddy and Frank were to meet again with the Widcombe Association and Greenway on 19 Mar 10 and would discuss.

**Action:** PT/FT

**Network Rail Bridge** – Paddy had applied to Network Rail for detailed permission for the required works (Sustrans already hold a general licence to use the bridge), but final permission was expected to take up to three months.

**Midford Castle Stretch** - Initial contact had been made with Mr Scott Adams, the new owner of Midford Castle, following its recent sale. Paddy had spoken with him about the possible purchase of a small piece of his land to facilitate upgrading the path for cycling in addition to walking, and was to meet Mr Adams in March to discuss further.

**Action:** PT

## 5. Budget and Funding

The Council's 4<sup>th</sup> tranche contribution of £100k which had been in doubt was now confirmed. On current projections an overall funding gap of some £60k remained.

Funding for potential future maintenance requirements was under consideration by Sustrans.

## 6. Events

**2 May 10 Route Walk** – This had been called to coincide with BathNES Council Healthy Living Week and would follow TTG's record turnout for it's last walk of 42 people on 30 Jan 10. Everyone was welcome.

**Sustrans Festival** (volunteer rangers event at Wellow) 16-19 Jul 10: Paddy would negotiate with Wessex Water to open Combe Down Tunnel for Sat 17 Jul 10 – unless Sustrans already owned it at that point. It would make sense, if the tunnel were to be opened, also to hold another **public open day**, and it was agreed that TTG would once again take the lead. It would be much easier for TTG to manage the event if Sustrans had ownership/licensing so that Wessex Water's somewhat onerous H&S restrictions on individual groups of up to 30 being guided through could be alleviated.

**Action:** PT/FT

**Publicity** - With the digging out of the Devonshire Tunnel northern portal due to start w/c 8 Mar 10, it was likely that the major publicity event would take place towards the end of the preceding w/c 1 Mar 10. Sustrans PR and BathNES Council PR would engage to ensure maximum exposure in local press and TV. TTG had failed to obtain the loan of a silver spade, originally used at the opening of the S&D line, from Washford Museum. Neil had higher level contacts and would try again to persuade the museum to let it be used in the ceremonial 'cutting the first sod'.

**Action:** PT/AC/FT/NB

#### 7. Any Other Business

Nil

#### 8. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Fri 2 Apr 10 at 2.30 in the Ralph Allen meeting room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) Trimbridge House, subject to the introduction of new arrangements following the appointment of the BathNES Council project manager and monthly meetings as required by the MOU.

**Action:** NB to arrange a room and **coffee** please.

20 Feb 10

Frank Tompson  
Secretary