

Meeting minutes

Chiltern AONB Review Group Meeting # 22

Meeting date Monday, 21 September 2020

Meeting location Teams Meeting

Meeting time 10:00-13:00

Members (those who make the quorum of the forum)	Attendees (presenters/additional attendees)	Apologies
Review Group Chair RGC	HS2 Main Works Civil Contractors Align	
Buckinghamshire Unitary Authority BC	HS2 Main Works Civil Contractors EKFB	
HS2 Ltd HS2	HS2 Enabling Works Contractors Fusion	
Chiltern Conservation Board CCB		
Natural England NE		

Signed

Chair Tom Hinds

Date 21 September 2020

1 Introductions

1.1 Members and attendees introduced themselves.

2 Review of Minutes & Action Tracker

2.1 A review of the process for voting on public funds and being reimbursed is required for the new unitary authority - Buckinghamshire Council formed 1st April 2020 following the merger of the five district and county councils serving residents of Aylesbury Vale District Council, Chiltern District Council, South Bucks District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and Wycombe District Council.

Action: BC to write proposal on the voting and reimbursement process. This will be discussed at the December meeting, then formalised into TOR for this group.

2.2 Minutes for 14 May 2020 meeting were approved.

3 Update on members' situations

3.1 Covid-19 safeguarding continuing.

4 Green Corridor Steering Group – do Chilterns AONB want representation?

4.1 BC had already confirmed by email that they did not want to be involved.

4.2 CCB whilst keen to engage and optimise dynamics with 'Green Corridor' HS2 initiative, stated they were unhappy with the PR side. Due to local sensitivities and how these are being used.

4.3 NE has representation on Green Corridor group and was happy to feed informally into this group.

Action: HS2 to feedback internally that the AONB Review Group did not want to be formally represented on the GC Steering Group (Completed).

Action: HS2 (DG) to set up meeting with CCB (NJ) to discuss links between CCB and the GC initiative.

5 Align update on design for A404 headhouse and vent shaft

5.1 Align design team talked through their landscape designs and responded to a number of questions from the Group.

3 public webinar events have taken place including engagement with Dame Cheryl Gillan MP. The next step will be to use visualisation to articulate the design development. Schedule 17 submission for these works will be in 2021.

HS2 Amersham Vent Shaft - a note on the Chilterns Conservation Board's position: (https://www.chilternsaonb.org/uploads/files/high_speed_2/HS2_Amersham_Vent_Shaft_CC_B_note_Sept2020.pdf)

6 EKFB update on design

6.1 EKFB provided update to members on the following design elements including the following Schedule 17 timescales:

South Heath to Bowood Lane

Nov/Dec 2020

Bowood Lane to Wendover Dean (Grimm's Ditch)	Q1/21
Wendover Dean	October 2020
Small Dean	January 2021
Nash Lee	December 2020
Construction Arrangements Small Dean	Not required
Lorry Route Approvals	In Progress

- 6.2** EFKB also described how they proposed to demonstrate alignment between their designs and the Detailed Design Principles.

7 Committed Additional Projects update:

- 7.1 CCB Landscape & Biodiversity Connectivity Project** - 14 sites identified. With 10 active initiatives involving landowners and others. Some have already generated a lot of positive interest to help visitors into the area enjoy the countryside.
- 7.2 Ridgeway Connections Project** – A survey has been carried out to look at how to improve horse riders experience in the area.
- 7.3 Longer term** - How will this review group record and share its funded projects with the public? It was noted that the Colne Valley Regional Park Panel publishes a newsletter online, which could present a useful model to follow.

8 Post-Sch 17 review of design to identify areas for further intervention (£2m): When? Who? How?

- 8.1** Members discussed the timing of this post-design review. EKFB will be submitting mitigation plans as part of Sch 17 by end 2020 (as part of the “Plans and Specifications” stage). These will be broken down into work packages for specific areas.
- 8.2** During the next 12-18 months, HS2 will be identifying land previously acquired that they will wish to dispose of. Stakeholders should therefore discuss options for such land before disposal arrangements have been agreed.
- 8.3** The general consensus of the group was that there was no rush to use the funds, and that it was better to ‘take the long view’ and wait for the final HS2 designs, potentially even until the “Bringing into Use” stage of Schedule 17. It was recognised that inflation could slightly erode the funds available, but also that the rate was very low at present. It was also acknowledged that some interventions (like planting) could take time to establish.
- 8.4** However, it was noted that this general approach did not prevent the Group from funding more immediate projects, as per the next item.

Action – Members were encouraged to continue to meet with stakeholders across the board and consider AP ideas.

9 Ideas for identifying more immediate projects (£285k): seeking wider input / other actions?

9.1 CCB shared some ideas on how monies could be spent in short term:

Road Verge Enhancement £30k project to encourage- Wild flower verges along AP zones. Some concerns expressed that this could overlap with responsibilities of others.

Ridgeway Project - Alternative parallel road improvement (total length of the section of Ridgeway considered is 1100m of which 600m will benefit walkers and horse riders south of Princes Risborough Ridgeway.

EKFB confirmed the Princes Risborough A4010 route is not being developed as a main works lorry route; it was noted that this project would be some way from the line of route.

Archaeology Project at Bacombe Hill/Coombe Hill – generated a lot of interest in ‘Beacons of the past’ on all kinds of unrecorded finds and our cultural heritage - £20K

Action: This will be a permanent item on agenda to capture ideas.

Action: CCB to refine and develop ideas in light of feedback from the Group.

Action: HS2 to recirculate criteria for approving projects to assist in assessing future examples.

10 Budget updates:

10.1 HS2 assured members of continuity of secretariat function support

Action: HS2 will circulate an update for the admin budget and BC to circulate an update of the programme budget. (completed with draft minutes)

11 AOB

11.1 Fusion provided an update to members on the replanting programme at Bottomhouse Lane and HS2 five year maintenance plan for the hedgerow, responding to a number of questions.

Next meeting

The next meeting would be held, as previously scheduled, on Thursday 3 December 2020.