

Meeting minutes

Chiltern AONB Review Group Meeting # 20

Meeting date Thursday, 14 November 2019
Meeting location Chiltern District Council Offices
Meeting time 10:00-12:30

Members (those who make the quorum of the forum)	Attendees (presenters/additional attendees)	Apologies
Review Group Chair RGC	Effiage Kier EK	HS2 Ltd HS2
Review Group Programme Manager RGPM		
Aylesbury Vale District Council AVDC		
Chiltern District Council CDC		
Buckinghamshire County Council BCC		
Chiltern Conservation Board CCB		
Natural England NE		

Signed

Chair Tom Hinds
Date 13th February 2020

1 Introductions

1.1 Members and Attendees introduced themselves

Action: None

2 Review of Minutes & Action Tracker

2.1 Minutes Approved

- 2.1.1 Correction to attendees name
- 2.1.2 Action 18 view from Align at Frith Hill

Action: RGPM to request update on visuals from Align

3 Design update from EK

- 3.1 EK advised that detailed design would be completed in 2020
 - 3.1.1 Ponds have been reduced in size and details refined
 - 3.1.2 They were expecting notice to proceed on the 31st December so they could mobilise in 2020
 - 3.1.3 Fusion are preparing the site for de-vegetation due to the small window for bird nesting, they are looking to take the minimum vegetation to allow compounds and access roads
 - 3.1.4 NE asked for the areas of de-veg so aware of the areas needed
 - Action: EK to provide RG with areas of de-veg**
 - 3.1.5 EK advised they had mapped out priority areas on what needs to be cleared and the sequence.
 - 3.1.6 EK advised they are working on communication and engagement process, also with Thames Valley police.
 - 3.1.7 The area around Grimms Ditch, Fusion are assessing each field, they are looking at a retaining wall to reduce cutting and take of the monument
 - 3.1.8 CCB raised a concern about the use of netting and if it can be avoided
 - 3.1.9 EK advised that a concrete batching plant and temporary stock pile screening would be at the north end of the Wendover tunnel from the end of 2020 for 4 years, they are reviewing noise impacts south of Nashleigh road. It will be 50m x 100m, 12-15m high requiring mains water supply and operate during core hours.
 - 3.1.10 RGC asked if this would reduce the impact on the roads
 - 3.1.11 EK advised it is still being calculated in the road traffic management plan, but less concrete and aggregate would be imported but there was an increase in other materials, so final stats not ready.
 - 3.1.12 Schedule 17 would mostly be completed in Q1 and Q2 of 2020, with Q3 seeing the construction of the Wendover Dene construction compound
 - 3.1.13 There was the possibility of connecting the Ridgeway and Northlink at the portal building
 - 3.1.14 Also the possibility of work over the green tunnel
 - 3.1.15 The noise barriers remain 6m high

- 3.1.16 Holloway recreation designs were shown, CCB asked if there was an opportunity to keep the old lane as an historic feature? There was discussion on trying to deliver the intent of a narrower road
- 3.1.17 CDC advised that EK need to contextualise plans and need to show different contour plans within existing plans

Action: EK to provide different contour plans against existing

- 3.1.18 AVDC asked for security fencing to be shown within landscaping.
- 3.1.19 CCB agree with eh principles to carry road character up and over the bridge, but also to carry verges up and over and look at banking either side to recreate holloway, or perhaps to drop the lane into the landscape. EK advised they would check min clearance and if possible

Action: EK to check min clearance and respond

- 3.1.20 Discussion about GM12 footpath crossing over the portal, AVDC expressed that this could be a more celebratory bridge in design, possibly a suspension design. EK discussed looking to removed the bridge completely and divert the footpath 1km. CDC agreed that a better bridge design was needed, but it would be 1 of 3 footpaths being diverted and questioned incorporating the Additional Project of the North Link into GM12. EK agreed for a public process to agree options with CDC. NE asked if an ecological corridor could be considered also.
- 3.1.21 CCB raised a complaint to EK that they mis-represented the Review Group in material circulated to members of the public about all requirements of the DDP being met with their designs, which CCB state is not the case and mis-leading. They asked EK not to repeat making statements about the designs meeting all the requirements of the DDP or mis-leading on the extent of design involvement RG members have had which has been limited. EK apologised and advised that they would not make incorrect statements in regard to the DDP. They did agree to share the Design and Access Statement with RG members. RG members asked EK could be clearer about where DDP's have or have not been met and the reasoning. CCB thanked EK for their apology.

Action: EK to circulate D&A statements

Action: EK to be clearer about DDP

4 Additional Projects

- 4.1 CCB provided an update on the Landscape and Ecological Connectivity Additional Project, there had been some success in approaching landowners with 4 cluster farms engaged with 2 outside the cluster. Hedgerow management and a condition survey will be undertaken with recommendations to be brought back to the RG.

4.2 RGPM provided a summary of additional scope requested for the Ridgeway Connections AP and asked if RG members would approve them. It was agreed amongst members that the list be circulated for any additional comment with the presumption that if no objections raised the additional funding would be agreed.

Action: RGPM to circulate additional scope from Ridgeway AP

4.3 The RGPM advised that bringing forward any further AP's within the act limits would require more information from HS2 and EK on the detailed landscaping designs and rights of way provisions being designed. It was agreed that EK and AVDC would meet with the RGPM ahead of the next RG meeting to be able to then advise on the position for AP's for the RG to consider taking forward.

5 Programme Managers Update

5.1 The RGPM provided a summary of the budget

Admin Budget	£300k
Actual Invoiced Spend Nov 2019	£184,030
Current Balance Nov 2019	£115,701

There was also a recommendation of plans for 2020 discussed

- Monitor AP Landscape & Biodiversity Connectivity
- Monitor Ridgeway Connections Project
- Review DDP projects with MWCCs
- Seek new projects from stakeholders
- Review HS2 Schedule 17 designs – Mitigation or Enhancement Aps needed
- Post construction funding reserve

It was decided amongst RG members that given the uncertainty over final design dates and also new Authority status at the beginning of April that a meeting in early February would be used to discuss future RG terms of reference and objectives.