

Meeting minutes

Chiltern AONB Review Group Meeting 33

Meeting date Tuesday 25th June 2024
Meeting location Teams Meeting
Meeting time 10:00 – 12:00

Attendees:

Members (Those who make the quorum of the forum)	Attendees (presenters/additional attendees)	Apologies
(TH) - DfT Chair	(DF) - Align	
(NJ) - Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB)		
(GP) - HS2		
(MT) - Natural England (NE)		
(LB) - Natural England		
(SA) - HS2		
(LL) - Buckinghamshire Council		
(MTh) - Chilterns		

Signed
Chair
Date

Tom Hinds

1 Introductions

1.1 All those present introduced themselves.

2 Review of Minutes and Actions

2.1 GP shared with group minutes from April's meeting – minor changes to complete

GP to amend and recirculate

2.2 Action tracker discussion:

2.3 GP to invite HS2 Urban Design lead to next meeting

2.4 Discussion took place going through tracker line by line from the panel

3 Environmental integration and Enhancement Plan

3.1 SA explained that the CEIP documents, produced for the Chilterns through the undertaking and assurances are the two key documents that informed the detailed design principles that were to be adopted and the short list of projects for the three million allocation.

3.2 Having looked at the projects that have been delivered which are in accordance with the principles and what's in the document. SA reminded the group of how the approved projects linked to the documentation.

3.3 NJ noted to the panel that a number of the projects highlighted within the documentation are being addressed but aren't necessarily called the same name as the examples in the documentation. NJ used the example that a lot of the work of the landscape and biodiversity connectivity project is identified on hedgerow strengthening. Another example mentioned was the Citizen Science Connections Project where elements of Tracking the Impact studies of that project look at biodiversity improvements.

4 Contractor update – ALIGN

4.1 DF presented the following slides:

4.2 Work handed over from EKFB to Align due to start early July

5 Ongoing Projects

- 5.1 NJ updated group on the landscape and biodiversity connectivity project is progressing and underway and NJ is aiming to get a written report over as soon as possible
- 5.2 A new farmer cluster has been set up that goes into the HS2 area. This will identify further projects, one of which has already gone out to tender for the land next to Bottom House Farm for tree planting, hedging and fencing.
- 5.3 NJ let the panel know that an internal meeting is taking place mid July which is focusing on how to spend the rest of the allocation for the project. More updates to follow in next meeting
- 5.4 A new Ridgeway Officer is in post who will be introduced to the panel and hopefully be able to provide updates on the Ridgeway AP over the next few meetings

6 Proposed Project update

- 6.1 NJ informed group that there are internal meetings within the Chilterns National Landscape team which are discussing future projects ie Misbourne Catchment works
- 6.2 TH mentioned that there are a few other projects that have been discussed in this group but are in early stages or still been developed
- 6.3 SA briefed the panel on the Colne Valley Projects opportunities as this could trigger further ideas to this group.

7 AOB

- 7.1 TH raised to the panel that they have received an email from the Chiltern Society to be involved in a future meeting to discuss biodiversity and nature recovery
- 7.2 TH made it aware that they are conscious that the Society isn't a member of the group so not sure if it would be the right decision. Floor was opened
- 7.3 MT agreed
- 7.4 NJ understood why the Chilterns Society asked as they want to understand what the contractual landscape mitigation is for the HS2 projects
- 7.5 LL raised concern to this and wanted to ensure that the panels parameters are kept
- 7.6 SA said that if they have a specific project proposal then they can get a member to propose and brief to panel. If they want to have a briefing on the design and what HS2

are delivering then that is an issue they can take up with HS2 through the appropriate channels and Community Stakeholders

7.7 TH moved on to acknowledge MT's departure and thanked him for his contributions over the last few years. Panel agreed and sent well wishes

7.8 GP moved onto next meeting date/time

GP to ask panel for next meeting to be face to face