

DEAN FOREST GREENWAY Task Group

Meeting notes 30th October 2020 - using Zoom remote access technology

S Freeman (SF) (Forest Edge South NDP and Yorkley Community), J Grimshaw (JGri), C Levett (CL) and J Linden (JL) (Greenways), J Greenwood (JGre, LTC) and D Kent (DK) (WDPC Minutes)

Peter Dunford (PD, WDPC) would attend future meetings

Please note acronyms used in this document

DFR Dean Forest Railway

FE Forestry England

FODDC Forest of Dean District Council

GCC Gloucestershire County Council

LPE Lydney Park Estate

LTC Lydney Town Council

NDP Forest Edge South Neighbourhood Development Plan, which covers the villages of Whitecroft, Pillowell, Yorkley, Oldcroft, Viney Hill and Parkend, and expanses of the Forest as far as the Speech House and Cannop

WDPC West Dean Parish Council

This meeting was arranged to review the progress of negotiations with landowners on the track(s) proposed, to identify outstanding actions and to present to the steering group to be held the following week information which would enable a decision to approve the submission of the Planning Application as developed by Greenways to the District Council Planning Authority for approval. This is in compliance with a decision by West Dean Parish Council on 28th October 2020. It was noted that Councillor Peter Dunford would be the Chair of this meeting.

Points agreed:

A meeting of the Steering Group would be held virtually at 2.00pm, Friday 6th November 2020 to consider any items arising from this meeting and to approve the planning application to be submitted to the District Council. This would include all representatives of groups and interests as in the original steering group.

Landowners:

1: The Prices were not essential to the application at this point. They may wish to take part in the project once the planning application is approved.

JGri & SF would consult the Prices.

2: Aldridges: A track through the Aldridge land would be part of the planning application, but for illustrative purposes only, as it was not necessary for the substantive planning application.

3. JGri would be consulting representatives of the Pin Factory on 4th November 2020. DK and PD to meet with JGri and SF before the meeting for a briefing.

It was noted that The Pin Factory representatives may be able to offer to prepare the planning application and construct the stretch of track through their land area.

The Planning Application therefore would specify the track adjoining the railway line as the specified route through the station length of the route. This would be under a 5 year licence with DFR. It was acknowledged that eventually DFR would wish to extend their track to include this area. However, with back up areas at Turnout Farm and the Pin Factory as supplementary information to the full planning application there was sufficient reassurance that alternative routes could be adopted.

Although not part of the planning application, the project offered an opportunity to make use of some existing disused railway infrastructure to develop in the future a Pillowell spur, with the use of Pin Factory/Turnout Farm land.

This could be the subject of a future planning application.

County Council:

In view of the uncertainty about road crossings, especially the Forest Road crossing in Lydney, the planning application would exclude highway land from the submitted planning application, so that the application would not include road crossing areas.

The County Council to be recontacted in respect of land at the Cut, Lydney.

As a matter of urgency, the County Council Highways Department to be requested to provide some clarity about the type of speed management to be installed at the Forest Road, Lydney, crossing (20mph, traffic lights, etc)

DK/JGre to consult County Councillor A Preest in respect of GCC funding.

JL and JGri to manage the clearing of the land at the Cut, Lydney

District Council:

To be consulted in respect of their land between the Co-op and Forest Road in Lydney

Chris McFarling to be requested to provide information on the release of FODDC grants for the funding of land purchases/leases.

Forestry England:

A licence is required for the whole FE stretch of the track. Further communication with them required.

Further Matters

The public consultation would be held after planning approval had been granted

The planning application would be submitted even if the final report from Natural England had not been received

JGri to circulate archaeological and ecology reports.

The potential flood plain at Norchard was not a matter for the project team.