

PARKEND TO LYDNEY MULTI-USE TRACK

Notes of meeting held 12th November 2019 at the Garden Centre, Parkend

Attending: B Freshwater (Chair), T Tremlett and J Carr (Lydney Town Council), K Thoday and T Sagar (Forestry England), D Kent (WDPC), W Barnett (DFR), S Freeman (Yorkley Community), E Highfield (Parkend Community), P Andrews (Park that Bike) and J Grimshaw, C Lowett and J Linden (Greenways). Apologies from A Lewis, Z Arnold, J Greenwood and L Elliott

The meeting began with those attending introducing themselves. B Freshwater was elected Chair and D Kent Secretary.

B Freshwater presented a proposed route (maps attached). This route had been explored by himself and S Freeman on foot and/or by train, and seemed to be the most suitable. There would be some major engineering works required to remove a few metres of hillside opposite and south of Norchard station, but no other obstacles had been identified and the local Highways Manager, Brian Watkins, was supportive.

In the course of detailed discussions on the route, the following points were noted.

The route should be predominantly either east or west of the rail track, with river and particularly rail crossings minimised.

Land ownership to be identified and marked on maps

Sites of important industrial historical buildings and ruins would need to be identified and respected.

Areas susceptible to flooding should be avoided.

Road crossings to be minimised.

Ecological reports would be necessary

Planning considerations to be raised with the District Council.

Good relations with Lydney Park Estate and Dean Forest Railway desirable

Road crossings to be agreed with Highways Dept, GCC

J Grimshaw explained Greenways' involvement in the ongoing work to create a multi use track on the former Chepstow to Tintern rail track.

He advised that a range of options must be presented in grant bids, to ensure that grantors were aware that alternatives had been considered.

He offered Greenways' services in carrying out a survey, drawing up a document outlining a range of over the following 3 months.

Actions Agreed

It was agreed in principle that Greenways would be requested to carry out this work, in the light of the issues raised above.

All relevant existing documentation (held by document custodian L Elliott) would be assembled and provided to Greenways by end November. On the basis of this, a report could be expected by end January 2020. The matter of fees payable to the contractor was not discussed at this stage. It was noted that the Town and Parish Council had provided or could make available funding. It was likely that a project administrator would be necessary to provide support for the project team.