

Shipwrights Way Steering Group Meeting

HCC – Queen Elizabeth Country Park

Date: Tuesday 30th April 2013

Present: Sarah Hobbs (chair), Cath Hart, Nick Heasman, Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee, Emma Noyce, Alison Perry, Nick Tucker. Nina Williams (SDNPA) – item 3 and Petronella Natrass (HCC) – item 9.

Apologies: Cllr Ken Carter & Julian Williams.

	Description	Responsible
1	Attendees & apologies The meeting was chaired by Sarah Hobbs - apologies are listed above. The Group welcomed Nina Williams from the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) & Petronella Natrass from Hampshire County Council who would be talking on agenda items at today's meeting.	
2	Launch round-up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cath advised that approx 100 people had attended the event on 24th March 2013. A summary was circulated to members and Cath showed the group some of the many positive press articles published in local papers the following week. Thanks were expressed to all Partners for their great support on the day, including EHDC Tourism Dept who led the promotion and to the Deers Hunt pub who gave a free drink for those who had walked/ridden the route.• The sponsored walk had raised £1,700• A photographer had been commissioned for the launch and would be used again to take some more photos once the weather has improved.• Sarah advised that the Shipwrights would appear on the front page of EHDC's 'Partners' magazine, distributed to residents.• Members also noted the excellent press coverage nationally, including recent filming by BBC Countryfile along the route• Cath advised that due to the high levels of press coverage she has commissioned a flier for the Shipwrights Way via HCC Marketing Dept – she planned to distribute this to Tourist Information Offices, libraries etc.	
3	Bordon Gap <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An outline report had been prepared by Nina Williams (SDNPA Woodlands Officer), a new employee who was previously a Major in the Royal Engineers. This follows the MOD's offer of a route (prior to a full feasibility). The report was circulated to members.• Nina concluded that the 1st preference, if permission could be obtained, was to use the peri track; 2nd preference was to construct a new route as offered, and she costed this up at £135K (or £80K if MOD were able to supply the labour). A 3rd option could be separating public and army use by using a track inside the danger area, but this was unlikely to be attractive to the MOD.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Group agreed with the findings and agreed that there was a need to establish timescales to resolve this. Cath was looking for funding. Given the conservation designations, an early view from Natural England on the construction of a new track would be helpful. <p>Action – Cath to informally consult with Natural England and report back to the Steering Group in order to agree a way forward.</p>	CH
4	<p>Works to the Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bordon - LTP money was used to create two road crossings and an off-road shared pavement to link the Broxhead Common bridleway with the new Bordon one. Work was planned to commence this week. Cost £17,000 plus design. Petersfield Causeway – 650m of new cycleway comprising 400m shared-use pavement and 250m on-road cycle lane, plus crossing point and speed limit lowering. All physical work had been completed March/April – cost £83K funded as follows: £53K LSTF, £22K S106 and £8K Shipwrights budget. Signage is now being put in place as a temporary measure until the TRO has been processed. Langley Bridleway – 200m of surfacing and drainage work had been completed by the Access Team (in the snow!) and funded by West Sussex County Council. Bolinge Hill, Petersfield – Cath advised the TRO had now been signed off and works would take place soon. Blue/white cycle signage in urban areas – these were due to be installed shortly in Petersfield at a cost of £2,000 for about 15 signs; Cath asked Members if they would like these in other urban areas. <p>Action – Cath to identify urban areas for signage, undertake costings and report back to the Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cath advised members that Buriton Parish Council had cleared out a disused pond and were putting in a boardwalk and viewing area. Funding had been obtained using the HCC Small Grants Scheme. 	SH/CH
5	<p>Prospect Lane, Havant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Havant Borough Council have put in some off-road cycle lane to the school, near the bottom of the Lane. Whilst it wasn't a requirement, provision for non-motorised users at the northern end of the lane, crossing Whichers Gate Road and then on along Prospect Lane would be desirable if money can be found. A draft design has been produced. Planning permission for a garden centre, which had been refused, has now gone to appeal; if successful this may produce some S106. Members were asked to consider making a £20K contribution towards crossing points and highway works to improve this on-road section of the Shipwrights for non-motorised users. Members agreed to postpone their decision for approx 3-6mths pending the outcome of the appeal and other pressures on the budget. 	
6	<p>Portsmouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portsmouth City Council had considered points put to them by local residents and by the Steering Group and had agreed to 	

	<p>provide off-road cycle access and an improved junction, protecting cyclists and others making a right turn off the main road, to meet the concerns raised. They had allocated £85k for the necessary works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Steering Group thanked PCC for considering and resolving the issues raised. <p>Action: Cath to thank PCC on behalf of the Steering Group.</p>	CH
7	<p>Sculptures update Handouts were distributed among the Members detailing updates since the last meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liss – a new design had been offered (bronze age hand axe); Richard had been unable to make the train image work as a sculpture. The group discussed this design but in view of the strong request of Liss Conservation Rangers and others at the workshop for a train-themed piece, asked that an alternative be pursued linked to the railway’s history. <p>Actions – Cath to go back to Richard and ask for a new railway design. Group offered thoughts of train tracks in the plinth with a WW1 soldier’s helmet and back pack on top. Cath to circulate Richard’s new design to the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finchdean – Richard has produced the tree design in 3D as requested. Members approved the new design and confirmed £1,500 funding to cover this. Hayling Billy – a new design had been offered (little tern/sail). Members approved the new design. QECP (view over Buriton) – Richard asked for a contact for some photos of local breeds of sheep. <p>Action – Cath to forward contact to Richard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QECP (old Roman Villa site) – Richard was still not happy with the goddess design. Group discussed and thought that he should contact Butser Ancient Farm for more ideas. <p>Action – Cath to pass contact details to Richard of Butser Ancient Farm.</p>	<p>CH</p> <p>CH</p> <p>CH</p>
8	<p>Others Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial for Councillor Sam James – permission to site a bench had kindly been offered by Old Thorns CEO Ashley Butterfield, on a site neat to Weavers Down and with beautiful views out over the heathland. Nick advised that SDNPA would be able to fund a kissing gate to replace the stile leading to the bench site, as it would be on open access land. A green Hampshire oak design was suggested. <p>Action – Cath to provide contact details and Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee to follow this up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old A3 cycle route update. At the request of local cyclists, Cath and other had commissioned a feasibility study for a flatter, tarmac cycle link from Petersfield Station to QECP. This would use Shipwrights Way initially, then a mix of shared use pavement along the Causeway (still tarmac), then the disused A3, a Forestry Commission track and finally along the ‘live’ A3 verge, coming into QECP on a new ramp down into the main park. Costs are 	CH/MKG

	<p>estimated at £800,00; Section 106 funding had been offered by EHDC and Cath advised that it was one of three projects included in the Linking Communities bid from SDNPA for Hampshire. The outcome of her bid will be known in May/June.</p> <p>Action – Nick Tucker advised that Simon James should be contacted about the FC track.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level crossing at Liss - Cath advised the Group that Network Rail are keen to provide an alternative to the at-grade crossing, along with other level crossings in Hampshire. There was the possibility of it being replaced with a stepped bridge with cycle gutter. This would potentially affect users of the Shipwrights Way. 	Tim Speller
9	<p>Countryside Recreation Network</p> <p>Petronella Nattrass gave Members a brief resume of an emerging concept – the Countryside Recreation Network will be a strategic walking and cycling network connecting people and countryside to achieve a sustainable green network. Elements had already been identified (South Downs Way National Trail, Shipwrights Way, Meon Valley Trail, SHORTcut) and the aim was to use these and other routes (existing or aspirations) to build a network. It could be branded separately. Members were asked for their views on this concept. Feedback was that the concept needed thought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reasons for having it need to be clear (horse/cart!) – is it a delivery mechanism or a strategy? • distinction from the CAP needs to be clear (or show how it has emerged from the CAP) • to have wider ownership, other organisations should be involved at the outset, not after the CRN has been identified <p>Petronella thanked members for their considered feedback.</p> <p>Action: Petronella to consider the feedback on the CRN</p>	PN
10	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Cath would circulate available dates in July following this meeting. Members agreed to alternating meeting venues between EHDC & QE. Agenda Items to include budget and timeline</p>	CH