



Leighton-Linslade Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group

9 November 2020

1. Introduction and Apologies

Present: Cllr T Morris (LLTC) - Chair, Cllr V Harvey (LLTC/CBC), Cllr C Palmer (LLTC), Cllr S Owen (LLTC), Cllr G Perham (LLTC/CBC), Esther Clarke (BuzzCycles), Pauline Hey (Local Access Forum), Jon Balaam (Greensand Trust), Mark Saccoccio (LLTC), Paul Burgess (CBC), Steve Lakin (CBC), Ian Haynes (LLTC), Sarah Sandiford (LLTC)

Apologies: Siobhan Vincent (CBC)

2. Approval of Minutes of 21 September 2020 & Cycling Meeting 12 October 2020

The notes of the previous meetings were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

(i) Government Gear Change Policy

A question was asked on whether there was a formal CBC response or policy arising from the Government strategy.

The CBC Sustainability Plan would be the relevant adopted policy document. There would be a new service at CBC to deliver this and this would include a cycling officer.

CBC Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans would be adapted to take the new guidance into account.

Highways technical guidance was currently being adapted to reflect the new infrastructure requirements arising from Gear Change so that any future highways development would take this into account.

It was clarified that any planning applications previously approved or in process would not be required to meet new design standards and that the change in requirements would not affect the later adoption by CBC of highways now being built.

(ii) Cycle stands in High Street

It was asked whether Waterborne Walk could be included and whether covered cycle stands could be considered.

(iii) Waste at Peace Meadow

PB confirmed he was progressing the installation of new bins with CBC Waste Services.

4. Projects/action list update

The group reviewed the action list generated previously – see updates in blue on **attached** appendix.

Concerns were expressed about walking and cycling routes from the eastern development into the town centre. Further concerns were expressed about parents having to transport children, generally by car, to schools across town.

In the longer term, the development would include a primary and secondary school so any school journeys should be inside the development. However until this time, parents were having to choose schools which had capacity and which could be located anywhere in the town.

Most highways related S.106 monies for the eastern development were allocated towards the development of the eastern relief road, but there was some funding for walking improvements into the town (e.g. footpath by Meadow Way).

SL advised that CBC was addressing this as follows:

- (i) Looking at opening links from the Chamberlains Barn development to Gilbert Inglefield Academy and Vandyke Upper School.
- (ii) A Schools for the Future feasibility report/assessment regarding highways was currently being done and consideration being given to what could be brought forward in the Local Plan.
- (iii) “School Street Schemes” were being piloted – Mary Bassett Lower School had been a frontrunner in trialling this- the aim was to keep cars further from schools and allow safer access/egress and social distancing. A pilot scheme would run in December 2020/January 2021 to include some schools in Leighton-Linlode.

CBC was therefore aware of and committing resource to the issue but until such time as the Schools for the Future programme was able to go forward and new schools on the eastern development were delivered, school choices were constrained by parental choice and school capacities.

5. Cycling

It was agreed to add this to the action plan: specifically the review of the Buzzcycles Cycling Strategy (EC) and the review of the Green Wheel action plan (JB).

6. Riverside Walk

Increasing biodiversity on the Riverside Walk by removing some of the nettles under willow trees and replacing with shrubs such as dogwood, teasel, burdock and willowherb was discussed. JB expressed support for these low key improvements to the area. SO suggested including pink and white campion but VH advised this was difficult to establish as very rich ground. It was agreed to add biodiversity to the action plan.

7. Water quality – River Ouzel

The Rivers Trust had recently published data on water quality and the impact of sewage discharging into water systems, especially following heavy rain when processing plants could not cope. This affected not just the River Ouzel but also Clipstone Brook and other rivers in the area.

JB agreed to raise concerns at the Catchment Partnership group and to report back. This used to be a standing agenda item and would be reinstated.

A question was asked about council representation on the Catchment Partnership; this was done by Alice Bishop at CBC.

In addition, it was agreed that MS would write to Anglian Water on behalf of the group (JB to draft content).

8. Any other business

JB was pleased to announce the award of a Green Flag for Rushmere Country Park.

VH would find out whether additional benches/seating had been ordered for near the stone circle at the bottom of the High Street.

VH asked about the works to Meadway and whether cyclists were supposed to be using the shared space widened path or the road. It was understood that they could use either. The question was asked whether markings would be done on the shared space path.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was agreed for **Monday, 1 February 2021 at 10:30am**.

The meeting closed at 12:02pm.