



Date: 1 December 2016

Title: GREENSAND RIDGE TRAIL MARKER PROJECT

Purpose of the Report: To provide an update on the Greensand Ridge Trail Marker project and request representation from Council on the steering committee.

Contact Officer: Terrie Moore, Partnership Officer

Corporate Objective/s	LLTC Three-Year Plan – Aim 2. To promote and develop a vibrant town through partnership working and initiatives including management of the street market, provision of town and community promotions, town centre enhancements, tourism and practical support for local businesses.	
Implications:		
Financial		
Human Resources		
Operational/Service delivery	√	Continuation of existing work plan delivery of Partnership Officer
Procedural/Legal		
Risk/Health and Safety		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To note the update report for the 2016 Greensand Ridge Walk and Cycle Ride Trail Marker project.
- 1.2 To request representation from Council on the steering committee for this project (5.1).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee meeting held 27/04/16, the Committee endorsed the recommendation that Partnership work with The Greensand Trust in order to secure grant funding from Central Bedfordshire Council (Green Infrastructure Planning Obligations Fund) for the purposes of erecting town centre signage. Its purpose to celebrate the official start of the Greensand Ridge Walk and Cycle Ride (080/LLP).
- 2.2 Council further agreed to support the project to a maximum of £3,000 from Earmarked Reserves (503/4555).

3. UPDATE ON THE GREENSAND RIDGE WALK AND CYCLE RIDE TRAIL PROJECT

- 3.1 Representatives from the Greensands Trust, Sustrans and Leighton-Linslade Town Council have begun discussions on the framework for this project including placement, type and style of marker, community engagement process and timeframe for completion.
- 3.2 Components of the project will include engagement with community groups and may take the form of a workshop to gather input regarding the design of the marker. The importance of community engagement cannot be underestimated and to this end, the artist will be expected to work with students from the arts and technical programmes of local senior schools. By doing this, it will provide practical experience for students in designing art works for public places as per the wishes of our Members.
- 3.3 In discussion with the Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) Conservation and Design Officer and colleagues, it is considered that the most appropriate site for the marker is at the seating circle which is located at the west end of the High Street. This placement brings activity to the end of the High Street whilst still bringing people into the centre of the town. This position avoids an expensive Scheduled Monument Consent application to the (Department of Communities Media and Sport) DCMS, which would reduce available funds for the creation of the actual marker. Moreover, by placing the marker there will maintain a relatively uncluttered space around the Market Cross. In turn, this also addresses other concerns raised regarding height constraints in the proximity to the Market Cross. This second option is preferred by all partners.
- 3.4 Consents and agreements are currently being sought from all relevant agencies and landowners. Research regarding impacts on the surrounding area is underway.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Once the location and broad parameters for the design of the feature are agreed, the partners will appoint a community artist to work with local people to create a bespoke, attractive design. The aim is to begin project delivery in early 2017, with fabrication and installation taking place during the 2017/18 financial year. Upon completion, there will be a celebratory event to mark the project.

5. Request for Council Representation

- 5.1 The steering committee requests that Council appoint a representative to attend and provide input to the process, as per recommendation 1.2 above.

End