



# Avon and Arrow Greenway Project

## General Meeting

7:30pm, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> 2022

Salford Priors Memorial Hall  
School Road, Salford Priors, WR11 8XD

### Minutes

#### Present:

Joe Harvey AAGP  
Jill Smith AAGP  
Daryl Bailey AAGP  
Colin Tether AAGP  
Liam Maude AAGP (Zoom)  
Thomas Shaw AAGP  
Stuart Keighley - Luddington Parish Council  
Robert Hale - Evesham Town Council  
Alan Saunders - Evesham Rambling Club  
Mark Funnell - Norton and Lenchwick Parish Council  
Jack Fyer (Wixford Parish Council (Zoom)  
Erick Wilson - Alcester Town Council (Zoom)  
Ian Robinson - Cleeve Prior Parish Council (Zoom)  
John Langley - Harvington Parish Council (Zoom)  
Ian Graham - Offenham Parish Council (Zoom)  
Andrew Maliphant - Consultant to Bidford Parish Council (Zoom)  
Neil Appleton - Welford Parish Council (Zoom)  
Karen Lewing - Active Travel Officer, Wychavon District Council (Zoom)  
Mike Flaxman - Binton Parish Council and Bidford Health Centre (Zoom)

#### Apologies:

Graeme Reeves - AAGP  
Martin Philpott - Sustrans  
Tom Hedges - Strategic Development Director Eagle One  
Joanne Bozdoganeli - South Warwickshire Local Plan Team Leader  
Piers Daniell – County Councillor, Alcester  
Bradley Thomas - Leader of Wychavon Council  
Susan Juned - Alcester Town District Councillor  
John James Bidford Health Centre Patient Participation Group  
Robin Walker – Cycle Evesham Vale

#### Item 1 – Chair Joe Harvey

Two new members have joined the executive group.

Tom Shaw who is currently creating a presentation to put to Alcester Town Council outlining the connections into Alcester from the Greenway.

Graeme Reeves who is writing a business plan that can be used for future funding applications.

## Item 2 Funding

We have received generous grants of £8K from Warwick County Council, £3k from Bidford Parish Council and £500 from Luddington Parish Council. These have been used to fund a feasibility study from Broom to Stratford. Sustrans have now been commissioned to do this with the first section from Broom to Bidford Health Centre to be completed by March 2022. An application to the National Lottery Fund was turned down. Feedback indicated that demand for funding was very high due to Covid. To obtain funding projects needed to be defined and delivered in specific time frames. Currently our project does not fit this profile. We continue to seek funding.

## Item 3 Evesham to Alcester update

We met recently with Karen Lewing the Active Travel Officer at Wychavon who was very supportive, and we have agreed to work closely to look at funding for the route from Evesham to the Valley and Harvington. The 'Levelling Up Funding' was not awarded to Wychavon District Council. Robert Hale asked about the availability of S106 money being available. Karen said there was not sufficient available and that Wychavon would be approaching Worcestershire County Council for match funding.

We are also meeting with the Rural Panel board to raise the profile of the AAGP and get support from Worcester County Council.

The section running from Salford Priors to Wixford is being partly funded by CIL monies from Salford Priors PC. They are currently moving towards getting quotes from contractors recommended by Sustrans to clear the vegetation along the route. Legal agreements with landowners along this part of the route are currently being drawn up.

## Item 4 Broom to Stratford upon Avon progress update

Bidford Health Centre is developing their site and the plans include a connection to Broom via the AAGP route. Sustrans are currently preparing a feasibility study to be completed by the end of March 2022 that will be included in the planning application by Oculus the development company working for the Bidford Health Centre. The AAGP have met with the tenant farmers on that section of the route and discussed the issues involved.

There is a potential problem with the new link road in Stratford. Currently there are no plans for a crossing point by the racecourse. We are in contact with Jenny Fradgley and Stephen Rumble who are aware of this issue and are working with the Department of Transport to resolve the issue. We are keeping a close eye on this. Stuart Keighley stated that Luddington Parish had asked David Curtis, local County Councillor for the current plans, but so far these have not been produced.

Stuart mentioned the old railway route between Welford (near to the Four Awls) and Sandfields Barn. It was agreed to have a site visit including the AAGP, Stuart and Neil from Welford parish.

The AAGP are also looking into the possibility of putting a bridge over the river Arrow which would link up the main Evesham to Alcester route and the Broom to Stratford route. Compared to other sites, the implementation of a bridge here is simpler as the river is not navigable, the supports either side are still in place and the approaches appear to be above flood level. Possibly the Royal Engineers could be invited to install the bridge.

Mike Flaxman said that a considerable area of Binton Parish was now owned by Heart of England Forest. He would pass on the contact details of the forester to the AAGP.

Stuart mentioned that the South Warwickshire Local Plan, Calls for Sites map showed that land immediately to the north of the old railway line west of Luddington Road on the approach to Stratford could become housing land. Liam added that this is a very useful site with a powerful mapping tool.

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Karen said that it was important to refer to the AAGP as an 'Active Travel' route rather than a 'Leisure' route. The former would attract more funding.

Robert mentioned the recent appointment of Chris Boardman as the head of Active Travel England. Robert said he was composing a letter to him. It was said that Chris Boardman lives locally.

Stuart mentioned the real difficulty of taking bikes on trains. This deterred people from travelling to cycle routes.

It was agreed that the AAGP would in future have general meeting every 3 months followed by a newsletter and the minutes.

Gillian Smith  
Secretary