

## **Connect2 Project - Bournemouth to Hurn**

Stakeholder Meeting - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at Bournemouth Town Hall

*Present - Bill Green – Project Coordinator (Dorset County Council)*  
*Trevor Sills (Bournemouth Borough Council)*  
*Lucy Marstrand (Bournemouth Borough Council)*  
*Adrian Roper (Sustrans)*  
*Cllr Ron Whittaker (Bournemouth Borough Council)*  
*Margaret Phipps (Hurn Parish Council)*  
*John Hayter (Dorset Cyclists Network)*  
*Richard & Andrea Monaghan (Disabled Association)*  
*Bob Maddock (Ramblers Association)*  
*John Williamson (Dorset County Council)*

### **1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

**2.0 Apologies** *Cllr Robert Lawton (Bournemouth Borough Council)*  
*Cllr David Fox (Dorset County Council)*  
*Anthony Fortescue (Agent for Malmesbury Estate)*  
*Russell Lucas-Rowe (Adventure Wonderland)*  
*Gary Cleaver (Environment Agency)*  
*Ann Peters (Horse Riders Association)*

### **3.0 Progress.**

3.1 The Terms of Reference have been drawn up. TS highlighted that “equestrian use” and “disabled friendly” needed to be added to clarify that the project will provide a route for all non-motorised user groups. This was agreed.

3.2 Those present recognised the need to reduce the size of the Steering Group to one that can steer and deliver the promotion and physical aspects of the scheme. By distribution of the Terms of Reference (attached) everyone will see what changes have been made and who is required for future meetings.

3.3 BG felt it is important that all user groups are represented.

3.4 TS said that the Steering Group drives the project and needs to be more streamlined than the Stakeholder Groups which will meet less frequently but allow wider community involvement.

3.5 AR confirmed that the Connect2 funding is available until March 2013.

3.6 BG informed the Group of events since the last meeting

3.6.1 A report was made to the Roads & Rights of Way Committee on 12 May 2009 recommending Route 2 as the County Council’s preferred route in accordance with the wishes of the majority of Stakeholders. The Committee deferred consideration of the proposal until after a site visit.

3.6.2 Local Government elections were held, with new Members being elected and a new Committee formed. The site visit took place on the morning of 7 July 2009 with the Committee meeting in the afternoon. The Committee did not support the proposal. It recommended that Route 2 should not be approved as the Dorset County Council’s preferred option and declined to give the authorisation to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding.

- 3.6.3 The recommendations of the Roads & Rights of Way Committee were reported to the Cabinet on 15 July. The Cabinet gave the authority to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding and instructed the Director for Environment to find a route to meet the Connect2 objectives.
- 3.6.4 A feasibility study was undertaken and the original Pig Shoot ford route (Route 4 on the Route Options Plan) was recommended to Portfolio holders. This route was accepted by the Portfolio Holders as the one best meeting Connect2 objectives and, since it had been identified as the route for the Lottery bid, was also the one most likely to be supported by the other funding partners.
- 3.6.5 The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 19 October 2009.

#### **4.0 The Way Forward.**

- 4.1 BG informed the Group that user monitoring was programmed to begin in Throop Road in July 2010. The data will be used to gauge the increase in usage once the route is built. JH suggested monitoring at a weekend when it is busier. BG said it is usual to measure on a typical day so the results are not distorted. AR suggested that rangers and volunteers may be able to help with the survey. MP suggested that both sides of the river should be monitored.
- 4.2 BG informed that works at the entrance to Bournemouth Airport were due to start in spring 2010.
- 4.3 BG felt that completion of Element 4 (the section including the River Stour crossing) may be difficult before March 2013 because of the need to satisfy Environment Agency requirements and to gain Planning Permission for the bridge. He suggested that the Lottery funding might be spent on the early elements and the bridge itself funded from Dorset County Council and Bournemouth Borough Council contributions later if this became necessary. He suggested that early spending might be possible on the Bournemouth side. For example the signalised crossing on Castle Lane should be feasible and would be beneficial to the community in advance of the complete project. All agreed that we should build what we can when we can.
- 4.4 AR said the Steering and Stakeholder Group meetings should have an independent Chairperson (not from any of the funding partners). John Hayter was unanimously elected to the role.

#### **5.0 Election of the Project Champion**

- 5.1 Cllr Whittaker proposed Cllr Lawton for the Project Champion role. This was agreed by the Group but Cllr Lawton was not present at the meeting so he will be asked if he agrees to become the Project Champion.

#### **6.0 Discussion.**

- 6.1 LM asked if the schedule could be updated to reflect any changes and it was agreed that this would be done.
- 6.2 BM asked if we could have a clearer plan and it was agreed this would be beneficial.

#### **7.0 Any Other Business.**

- 7.1 TS said that he is handing over the lead role for Bournemouth Borough Council to LM.
- 7.2 BM said he will attend future meetings on behalf of the Ramblers Association in place of Brian Panton.
- 7.3 AR informed the Group that there is soon to be a new Sustrans representative in place of Richard Rider (Note: now confirmed as Kevin Humphries)

## **8.0 Date of Next Meeting**

- 8.1 It was decided that the Steering Group would continue to meet quarterly, with the next meetings set for
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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday 29 March 2010     | 14:00 Bournemouth Town Hall |
| Monday 28 June 2010      | 14:00 Christchurch BC       |
| Monday 27 September 2010 | 14:00 Bournemouth Town Hall |