



Notes of the Wellington Town Council Green Corridor Advisory Group Meeting

The Council Chamber

31 August 2022 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Mike McGuffie (Chair) Wellington Town Council
Anita Roy, Wellington Mills CiC
Helen Gillingham, Transition Town Wellington
Yael Rowan-Wicks – Wellington Community Food
Steve Saunders – The Basins Volunteer Group
Katherine Church – SWT Council
Jane Browne , Wellington Sports Federation
Dave Farrow , Wellington Town Council

1. Welcome and Introductions – Mike McGuffie,
MM welcomed all those present, and people introduced themselves and explained who they were representing.
2. Terms of Reference – Dave Farrow
Draft terms of reference were tabled and are attached to these notes. DF explained that the Town Council had resolved to establish the Advisory Group the terms of reference showed how it fitted in to the Council structure and explained what its role was. There are still a couple of groups not represented on the Group which DF will be addressing.

AR suggested that given the waterways running through the land it would be useful to have someone with expertise/knowledge in that area. KC said that she was meeting someone from Somerset Wildlife Trust soon whose roll relates to waterways, and she would ask them if they would be interested. **ACTION KC**

The Draft Terms of Reference will be presented to the Environment and Open Spaces (EOS) Committee at its meeting on the 20th September. **ACTION DF**

3. Update on Progress of Purchase – Dave Farrow
DF explained that the political process had now been completed following sign off by Somerset County Council and the legal process of purchase and setting up the lease had commenced. At this stage there was no timescale for completion.

4. Consultation – process, timing and questions – all

DF said that the Town Council had resolved that a public consultation should be carried out over the Autumn with the outcomes being reported to the EOS Committee meeting in January and The Town Council meeting in February. He had made some suggested changes to the initial draft that had been produced previously of the consultation document which he would circulate after the meeting.

It was agreed that

- some information about demographics of those completing the survey should be included. **ACTION** DF to draft
- a video/drone footage of the land to promote the new arrangements and the consultation would be useful. AR suggested someone the CiC had used – **ACTION** DF to make contact for costs for consideration by EOS Committee.
- Consideration needs to be given to the purpose of the consultation to make sure it is focussed. DF suggested it should at this stage be used to develop the Vision rather than be too detailed. Further specific, more detailed consultations could be carried out when the need arose. **ACTION** DF to draft outline process and time frame

5. Development of Management Plan – Dave Farrow/all

DF explained that as part of the lease arrangements a Management Plan would need to be developed. After some discussion it was suggested that initially the Management Plan should focus on the basics of the maintenance of it as is ensuring access is maintained as is and that it is a safe environment. This will develop as the use of the land develops. It was agreed that some baselining would be required to enable the impact of actions taken to increase biodiversity etc to be assessed. **ACTION** KC to look at how this might be done also DF to discuss with Adam L following previous discussions.

There was a discussion about the different levels of plan that would be required, and DF suggested the following:

Vision – this sets out the high level aspiration for how the land will be used and the expected impact actions will have on increasing biodiversity and reducing the towns carbon footprint over time.

Development Plan – the plan that sets out the actions we will take and when we will take them to deliver the aspirations set out in the Vision.

Management Plan – the plan that sets out the day to day management of the land which will evolve as the use of the land evolves following on behind the Development Plan.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Agreed to meet again last week in September. DF to ask Rebecca Hunt to get dates diaries up to next summer.