

GREEN CORRIDOR ADVISORY GROUP

3 November 2022 7.00pm Wellington Town Council, Council Chamber

Present:

Mike McGuffie – Chair, Town Councillor
Benno – Wellington Community Food (WCF)
Steve Coles – Wellington Sports Federation (WSF)
Dave Farrow – Wellington Town Council Town Clerk
Helen Gillingham – TTW
Seve Saunders – Basins Volunteer Group (BVG)
Keith Wheatley – Town Councillor

1. Welcome and Introductions – Mike McGuffie

2. Update on Purchase/Lease – Dave Farrow

DF advised that matters had begun to progress – the Town Council solicitor had been sent a proposed lease and was reviewing it prior to passing it to the Town Council for consideration. No date yet fixed for sale to SWT. DF will contact Jo O'Hara for an update and advise the group when he hears anything

3. Consultation update to include proposal to commission drone footage to support the process.- Dave Farrow

The Group agreed that drone footage to support the consultation and inform the community about what the Green Corridor consisted of would be beneficial and recommended that the Environment and Open Spaces Committee consider commissioning it at its next meeting.

DF had previously explained at the last meeting the complications caused by multiple consultations taking place in the town in quick succession. It was important that the community saw how they fitted together so a structure had been developed which started with the SWT Local Plan consultation taking precedence which would then be used to inform and link in with the other consultations including the Green Corridor. It was understood that the WCF would need its element of the consultation to be completed sooner rather than later to support funding applications etc. It was agreed that the consultation should progress as soon as possible now the SWT Local Plan consultation had been completed. DF hoped that the following day he would be getting feedback on that. It was agreed that DF would circulate the questions drafted so far the following day and that the group would reconvene via Zoom the following week to discuss further.

4. Development of Management Plan – all

DF outlined the need for a management plan for the land that set out how the Town Council was going to look after the land and manage developments. It was felt that for Year 1 a very basic plan was needed which would set out the maintenance arrangements for the land including topping of fields, clearance of

footpaths, maintenance of hedgerows etc. Where possible it should be generic but it was recognised that in some cases there may be a need to set out what would be done in individual fields. HG said that TTW would make a start on looking at a plan and bring a draft back to the December meeting

5. Possible Archaeological Interest – Dave Farrow

DF circulated a presentation from Dr Andy Beckley, a local geologist, about potential archaeological interest in the Green Corridor arising from finds close to it. It was agreed that exploring the archaeology the area should be a strand of the strategy.

6. Storage at Fox's Field – Helen Gillingham

HG explained that TTW had decided that some form of storage was required at Fox's Field and that after consideration a storage container similar to those used by the BVG was what was needed. The intention was also to attach an awning to the container so that outdoor meetings/sessions could be held.

Potential costs of the unit was £4500 with a further c£1500 needed to create pathway/base for the unit to be delivered and sited on.

TTW has applied for a grant of £1,000 and was wondering if the Town Council would fund the balance.

DF and MM said they would look at how best to fund and take a recommendation to the next meeting of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee.

7. Tree Strategy – Mike McGuffie/Dave Farrow

DF circulated a copy of a proposed Tree Planting Strategy that it is hoped will be presented to the EOS Committee at its next meeting. TTW and WCF had already provided comments which had been incorporated. Further comments were invited.

8. Date of Next Meeting –16 November 2022 @7.30pm via Zoom – one item agenda to consider consultation questions.

Dave Farrow
Town Clerk