

**Hayle Area Plan Partnership
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT DELIVERY GROUP**

Held at Passmore Edwards Institute on 25 March 2009

Present:

Joe Colliver	Chair	Kathy Tilby	St Erth Parish Council
Frank Scott-Mance	HAPP TT	Duncan Thurnell-Read	Gwinear Gwithian Parish Council
Bob Mims	HAPP	Owen Philp	Hayle Harbour Support
Jim Wright	HAPP	Alistair Beasley	Rights of Way Officer Ramblers
Jane Sharp	HAPP Manager	David Clarke	Cornwall County Council
Claire Casey	HAPP Admin	Beverley Plunkett	Penwith District Council
Rex O'Dell	HAPP TT		

1. Apologies

John Bennett	Euan Mahy	Don McGeorge	John Pollard
Ray Tovey	Colin Philp	Mick Hanley	

2. Chairman's welcome

Joe Colliver welcomed all present with particular mention of guest speakers David Clarke and Beverley Plunkett.

3.1. 'Walkers Are Welcome' initiative, with Beverley Plunkett, PDC

Beverley introduced herself and thanked Jane Sharp for inviting her. She pointed out that from April she would be employed by Visit Cornwall, not PDC.

'Walkers Are Welcome' is a fairly new initiative ' started in 2006. At present, it's mostly located in Yorkshire, Scotland and Wales, with 18 towns signed up. The first town to get the 'Walkers Are Welcome' accreditation was Hebden Bridge in 2007. There are no participants in Devon or Cornwall yet, so if Hayle was to become a 'Walkers Are Welcome' town, it would be the first locally.

'Walkers Are Welcome' is a bottom-up community-led initiative. The idea of presenting an outline of the programme was to sow a seed, to garner interest in the scheme. As part of its quality assurance, there are six conditions which have to be met. The costs would not be high as there would be marketing, brochures, info boards and window stickers for shops, pubs, hotels, etc. An application for the status could be put forward by Hayle Town Council and the two Parish Councils of Gwinear-Gwithian and St Erth.

For more details on the scheme the following are appended:

- Fact sheet 1: The Walkers are Welcome idea
- Fact sheet 2: Six conditions for becoming a Walkers are Welcome Town
- Fact sheet 3 How to become a Walkers are Welcome town
- Fact sheet 4: Case study (Hebden Bridge) "Adopt a Path"

Duncan Thurnell-Read enquired where the accreditation came from. Beverley

informed the meeting that it was not like a National Accreditation and that she would find out more details on this.

Bob Mims asked what the benefit of the accreditation was for Hayle. Beverley pointed out that walkers like to know which accommodation providers, pubs, etc make them feel welcome, for example where they can go with their walking gear and perhaps muddy boots. She quoted from the scheme's literature:

“It helps strengthen a town's reputation as a place for visitors to come to enjoy the outdoors, bringing useful benefits to the local economy. It helps to ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained in good condition, benefiting local people as well as visitors. It can contribute to local tourism plans and regeneration strategies.”

If adopted, then the whole of the Hayle Area would be involved. Beverley needed to check if those setting it up would be responsible for the legal aspects. The marking of footpaths would need to be improved, as there are a number without signage at present. Hebden Bridge, for example, has instigated an “Adopt a Path” scheme to help keep the footpaths cutback and cleared. The idea is that adopters walk their grid squares regularly (at least twice a year) and report any problems encountered.

It was mooted that Hayle could have walking weekends or a walking week, such as the one on the Isles of Scilly. It was suggested that Carnsew Pool footpath and St Michael's Way could be used as starting points, together with walks for which leaflets are already available, such as historic trails and the RSPB's walks.. It was recommended that the tourist office would be the place to get walking information.

Joe Colliver concluded that anything that would help Hayle with tourism is welcome and thanked Beverley for bringing it to the group's attention.

It was agreed to discuss 'Walkers are Welcome' at a future meeting.

3.2. St Erth Riverside Walk, with Dave Clarke CCC

Dave Clarke explained the idea had evolved from the MCTi Steering Group and was an initiative put forward by Mick Hanley to link the towns of Hayle and St Erth safely for walkers and cyclists. The existing route goes through Hayle, along the plantation pathway and then on the road to St Erth. The desire is to get the next section off-road by improving the riverside route which actually runs parallel to the road route. It would also improve the National Cycle Network route and better link the main line stations of St Erth and Hayle.

Several issues with getting it up and running were discussed

- Cost - a Stage One bid for £50,000 through Access to Nature has been successful and CCC has been invited to submit a Stage Two bid. Without funding the project will not be possible. The actual cost would be higher

than £50,000. Dave suggested that the Sustrans (National Cycle Network) and the Eco Lodge developers both be approached to see if they are willing to make contributions. There might also be a little money from St Erth Parish Council.

- Agencies/Organisations – those likely to be involved and consulted with include Natural England (including their Access to Nature team), Cornwall Wildlife Trust, RSPB and Environment Agency.
- Management – Currently there is no resource provision for future maintenance. Although the route should be fairly low maintenance some resources will need to be allocated for this. Dave is having on-going discussions re future maintenance arrangements with Cornwall Council and the Environment Agency, as they manage the riverbanks.
- Land ownership – there is multi-land ownership along the east-side and an agreement would need to be reached with all landowners about the National Cycle Trail being re-routed alongside the river. The possibility of having the path on the west-side of the river was also discussed, as there are fewer landowners on that side.
- Public Rights of Way status – Duncan pointed out there is already a footpath along the the east-side of the river, however because of issues raised by the RSPB and the minigolf owner, there had been an enquiry when the Modification Order to create the footpath had been drawn up. He suggested that Dave contact County Hall for details of the Modification Order as this would have landowners details for the east-side. The footpath status would need to be upgraded to allow cycling, either to bridleway or as a permissive route.
- River Banks – the priority is to establish the limitations of the bank, which might not be strong enough for the required surface or able to take the big machinery required to carry out the works. If the banks are not strong enough, then it might not happen at all.

Dave confirmed that the proposed route would go from the plantation cycle/walkway route, across the St Erth road, through the RSPB sanctuary and would then join the riverbank. It would not join the riverbank walk from the Causeway. Permission would have to be sought from the RSPB to use the existing track leading to the Hide. At present, the route between St Erth down to Ryan's Field is quite dangerous for both pedestrians and cyclists.

Duncan suggested an alternative route through Trannack Mill, up a quiet lane to St Erth Praze and then down a bridleway. If the riverbank route didn't happen, this might be an alternative. He pointed out there are 70 miles of National Cycle Network route in Cornwall, but only 15 of them are off-road.

Owen Philp said the reason the river route had been chosen was because Mick Hanley wanted to get walkers to go from St Erth to Hayle and encourage “footfall” through the town. Dave interjected that with ING putting bridges over the harbour linking South, East and North Quays for pedestrians and cyclists, this would join up the pathways into and through Hayle. He also pointed out that the National Cycle route could become a busier route with people taking advantage of rail connections and getting on their bikes to tour the area.

Joe enquired whether Dave could do anything about the inadequate signing of the Hayle railway station and perhaps see if rail timetables could be sited at Copperhouse and Foundry Square. Visitors can see the line, but don't know where the station is located. Dave agreed to investigate.

Jane asked if multi-use included horses. Dave said that on a multi-use route they could not be excluded. However, as this is to be part of the National Cycle Network it will be possible to legally keep it for pedestrians and cyclists.

Jane and Dave agreed to discuss further and report back on progress.

3.3. Technical Report - Neil Clark PDC given by Jane Sharp

(a) Hayle-St Erth.

In summary, the basics of the route is all there. Walkers can sensibly use the verge next to the road and some signage could be improved.

Alistair Beasley spoke of the lack of signage from St Erth Methodist Chapel car park, which meant you wouldn't realise you could walk by the river. He suggested that some new signs were needed. The same view was held on signage for the walk around Carnsew Pool, which was a short and interesting route close to Foundry Square.

Jim Wright reiterated the dangers of the present route from the Plantation path to St Erth, particularly the junction of the cycle route with the road. Walking and cycling along the present road route were discussed, although walkers could use the verge, it was felt this route was unsafe.

It was agreed that a group would walk the Hayle-St Erth route at 2pm on 15 April and report back to the next meeting. Volunteers were Jane Sharp, Dave Clarke (if available) Bob Mims, Frank Scott-Mance, Kathy Tilby and Joe Colliver. Starting point Carnsew Meadow.

(b) Carnsew Pool

Neil had also looked at walking around Carnsew Pool. When he visited, he noted that a number Jewson employees were walking there on their lunch break, illustrating the shortness and accessibility of the route. It's a 15 minute easy walk and would

benefit from some signage. Joe added it's a fine walk, but after heavy rain gets a little muddy. Path maintenance arrangements need confirming – will be CCC or Hayle Town Council.

(c) General Discussion

This and other existing walks could be linked to the 'Walkers Are Welcome' initiative. Existing trail leaflets and other related leaflets (local history and town centre facilities) need to be researched.

The idea of a launch for a walking or cycling campaign was proposed. Hayle could promote walking and cycling activities and their added health benefits, especially in the current difficult economic climate when people would be looking for cheaper things to do. Walking 10,000 paces (about 4 miles) a day has good health benefits. It would also be useful to find out how much interest there is from the health side and maybe work with the PCT.

4. Quick Update on Road & Brown signs

Jane reported she had been out to look at road and brown signs in Hayle between the Loggans Moor and St Erth roundabouts on the A30. Other members involved were Frank Scott-Mance, Harry Blakeley and Nick Reynolds.

A report has been prepared and will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting. The recommendations are for clearer signage at key junctions and a few new signs where existing ones were in poor condition or were missing.

It was suggested that Mark Peters, Divisional Surveyor, be contacted, and Cornwall Council be approached re availability of budgets.

It was pointed out that brown signs have to be paid for by the attraction.

It was also noted that it could be difficult to get permission to put more signs up.

Owen Philp suggested that brown signs were not appropriate for this group and should be put the tourism group. Jane said that as there is not a tourism committee, the first stage had been done with this group and will need to involve the business group. Owen felt that the business group would be the correct forum, as it is really part of tourism.

5. Any Other Business

a) HMS Plymouth

Bob Mims confirmed that he had met with ING that morning and they had said no. They did not say why, but mentioned environmental issues, the RSPB and all the statutory issues that they would have to get passed. He had come away feeling despondent and felt that ING as a development company has no interest in Hayle.

He would not give them his support in future. Sir John Nott had spoken to Jeremy Joslin about the project and is interested to be kept informed.

b) Vice-chair

Joe expressed concern that there was no vice-chairman for this group. Don McGeorge had deputised for him, but did not want to be vice-chair. Owen Philp proposed Jim Wright as interim Vice-chair and this was agreed.

Joe thanked everyone for attending.

6. Date and Time of next meeting

Wednesday 27 May 2009 at 7.30 pm. Venue to be confirmed.

Meeting closed 8.50pm.

ACTIONS:

'Walkers Are Welcome' initiative

- 1) Details of initiative to be circulated with the Min.
- Discuss 'Walkers are Welcome' at a future meeting.
Beverley to find out more details and look into the legal aspects.

Walking and Cycling routes

- 4) Re: St Erth-Hayle Riverside Trail, Dave Clarke to:
 - a. pursue Stage 2 bid and look into other funding sources.
 - b. consult various organisations over implications of route.
 - c. find out who owns the river banks.
- d. look into responsibility for maintenance of the new surface.
- e. confirm if river bank strong enough to support proposals.
- 5) Site visit for proposed Riverside Walk route on 15 April at 2pm.
- 6) Maintenance. Dave to confirm who responsible is for network.
- 7) Health benefits. Jane to contact PCT.
- 8) Leaflet Audit. All to gather together info and pass onto Jane.

Road and Brown Signs

- 9) Brown Signs matters to be presented to the Business group.
- 10) Road & Brown Signage report to be circulated.
- 11) Train Station signage/info improvements – Dave to assist.