

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT DELIVERY GROUP

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 28 October 2009 at Passmore Edwards Institute

Present

Joe Colliver Chairman

Jane Sharp HAPP Manager

Alistair Beasley PAROW and Ramblers

Jeff Turk Hayle Pump

K Jenkin Gwithian-Gwinear Parish Council

Rex O'Dell

Claire Casey HAPP

1. Apologies

Colin Philps, Owen Philps, Don McGeorge, Duncan Thurnell-Reid, Mr & Mrs Nurhonen, Nic Reynolds and Alison Hayles.

2. Chairman's welcome

Joe Colliver commenced the meeting by expressing his disappointment at the poor attendance. He then spoke of the meeting on 29 September which Jane Sharp, Councillor John Pollard, and he had had with Matthew Sydney and (John Coombe?) at County Hall regarding Hayle's present and future perceived traffic issues through the development proposed by ING. The outcome was that in April 2010 there will be a full scale transport study of these issues as they are now, and likely to be with ING's developments to include Foundry Hill, Lethlean Lane etc. It is hoped that through the 106 agreement with ING there will be money to finance this study, this appeared to have been overlooked at the Hayle Town Council meeting.

Joe Colliver also announced that there is to be a meeting with Julian Crow of Great Western Railways on Tuesday 3 November when sign posting for the station, a timetable to be displayed in both Foundry Square and Copperhouse and also for the number of trains which stop at Hayle to be increased would be discussed. The report from this will be included for discussion on the Agenda for the meeting on 25 November.

Jane Sharp was then invited to speak on the Walkers are Welcome.

3. Walkers are Welcome

➤ Report on the Walkers are Welcome conference

Jane Sharp handed around her written report of the annual WAW conference she attended two weekends previously. She said that WAW has been going since 2007 having begun in Hebden Bridge. There are now a number of northern towns signed up. Some are similar to Hayle being next to the coast while others are next to areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty eg Yorkshire Dales. In the first year 4 towns were accredited and now there are 33. It is expected that this number will double in next 12 months because of the interest across the country.

To achieve the first condition Hayle needs to demonstrate support from the community. In order to do this HAPP has been collecting signatures from 4 outlets around the town and parishes and now has around 400 signatures. For a moderately-sized town 250-300 is acceptable but figures for town sizes are ambiguous so the aim is for 500 for the Hayle area. So far everyone spoken to welcomes the idea of having Hayle accredited as a WAW town.

➤ **Reminder of the 6 steps for gaining WAW status**

Jane passed around leaflets obtained at the conference and drew everyone's attention in particular to the six conditions on how to become a WAW town for general discussion on how to progress.

➤ **Step 1 – collecting signatures**

As stated above progress is good so far and we will continue to collect signatures until we have 500.

➤ **Discuss & agree an action plan for steps 2 – 6**

2. Formal Endorsement – It was felt that it should be fairly simple to meet the requirements of the second condition as those approached in the community are keen to give their support .

- Hayle Town Council, the two Parish Councils and Cornwall Council have been approached for letters of support. Hayle Town Council has already given their letter of support, Gwinear-Gwithian is expected soon. St Erth has not yet responded and a further request will be made by Claire at their Council meeting on 3 November.
- All organisations and groups known to have a connection with walking and wild life are to be approached ,eg ramblers, West Cornwall Footpath Preservation Society, PAROW, Gwinear-Gwithian Walkers etc, for their support and it was felt that it would be useful to include Mobilize. Alistair Beasley offered to approach Adrian Bigg (PAROW) and with his own connection with PAROW and as a qualified walk leader gave his support.

3. Maintaining footpaths - Alistair Beasley pointed out that it is no good to have footpaths if they are not waymarked. A general discussion followed on the present state of footpaths in the area, special mention being made of the footpath in front of Strawberry Blonds which is very narrow and is the designated footpath from Black Bridge to Philps. It was noted that the walk at Carnsew Pool has been improved in the last 3-4 weeks.

In response to questioning about the upkeep of footpaths it was established that St Erth have pulled out of the Local Management Plan and the gold paths are being maintained by Cornwall Council. Silver paths are completely neglected and Alistair Beasley is trying to get some of them to be upgraded to gold.

Leaflets showing routes and giving some additional information about the area were talked about and Kelvin Jenkin gave as an example one he had come across at Mawnan Smith which showed paths around the area plus local shops and pubs.

4. Marketing the status – an important aspect is about promoting the advantages that could be brought to the town not just businesses but for the community too. Actions suggested at the conference included

- Press releases and awareness in the community. The stickers saying WAW can be bought and put up now.
- Organise a launch event, after ensuring paths are waymarked and leaflets available, sometime late next year.

- Consult with our mentor at Kingsbridge in Devon and find out what is done there and in the other towns in the South West which include a few around Wiltshire and Somerset who are signed up or just about to become accredited.
- Two way promotions eg B&Bs are shown on advertising that “Walkers are Welcome”.

5. Encourage walking and use of public transport –

- Link the use of public transport and the green agenda.
- Contact trains and bus companies and see if it is possible to work together to produce leaflets and encourage days out mixing public transport and walking.
- Link heritage and wild life with walking and days out through the Discover Hayle project which is all about encouraging people to take car free days out.

Jane Sharp drew attention to the last page of her report where some useful laws to reflect on were briefly outlined.

General Discussion

The cost involved in setting up the walks was discussed and Jane Sharp said that there was a small budget which might be available to cover a couple of walks in each parish. She also said that a small steering group should be set up to take WAW forward. As WAW is expected to be community led this group should be separate from and report back to the Traffic and Transport delivery group. It should consist of 3 to 6 people working together who do not necessarily have to be walkers. Jane Sharp said that she would write to all of key contacts and ask for their support of the and get volunteers for the steering group. It is hoped that the first meeting will take place at the beginning of next year in time to report back to the Traffic and Transport meeting at the end of January. Alistair Beasley put himself forward to be on it.

The question was raised whether Paradise Park was signposted from the train, what information was included in the directions on their advertising and that perhaps days out on the train to visit Paradise Park could be organised like the Eden Project with rail and bus links. Jeff Turk said that as he works for Paradise Park he would follow this up.

It was noted that First buses has stopped its service to St Erth which now has a very limited timetable. The service was already restricted and it was now extremely difficult for people to travel from the village. The walk to St Erth station and the main bus route is dangerous particularly on the bend at Treloweth Farm where there is no pavement and the elderly are unlikely to be able to walk from the centre of the village. Mr O’Dell said that the group was missing Mick Hanley who was trying to have alternative routes designated for pedestrians to the station and the Causeway.

Alistair Beasley suggested that there should be a few more led walks in the Hayle area, as some beautiful ones such as to Trethingy are hardly used. Picking up on this Jane Sharp thought that it would be good to have a couple regular short and longer walks over varying terrain to suit different types of walkers once a month (two walks a month) and perhaps have a variation over a 2 or 3 month period.

Jane Sharp handed round examples of leaflets showing the footpath routes from the conference and said that the charge of £1.25 for the leaflet pays for reprinting. She suggested a one day festival where WAW could be promoted and stressed the importance of making sure that all

waymarkers were in place for the designated walks. This could be repeated annually and the number of walks included built on year by year.

Jeff Turk enquired about other ways to promote Hayle WAW and wondered how people outside Hayle could be made aware. Jane Sharp showed the Tourist Guide for Church Stretton which has extra pages about walking and cycling and describes WAW. WAW itself has the leaflet and web site but leave each town to promote itself. Once Hayle is a WAW town then it could be shown on the Hayle Town Council website and added to all town literature produced by both the Town Council and Cornwall Council.

The WAW Conference next year will be in Kilsyth, Scotland and it would be useful to be accredited by that time so a representative could attend and talk about the regeneration side of Hayle and that it is a World Heritage Site as well as the walking.

4. Any other business

There was no other business.

5. Date and time of the next meeting

Joe Colliver thanked everyone for attending and reminded them that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 25 November.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

ACTION

- 1. Article to be prepared by Jane Sharp to be put in Hayle Pump to encourage walkers and others to volunteer to join the Walkers and Welcome Steering Group.**
- 2. Jane Sharp to write to walking and rambling contacts to ask for representatives on the Walkers are Welcome Steering Group.**
- 3. Data to be gathered where possible regarding the state of footpaths, bridleways and byways within the Hayle Area.**
- 4. Article to be prepared for Hayle Pump.**
- 5. Claire Casey to contact Frank Nolan to obtain details of walkers in St Erth**
- 6. Claire Casey to attend the St Erth PC meeting on 3 November and formally ask for written support for WAW and also the Discover Hayle leaflet.**