

TEES VALLEY

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

20th September 2017, 10:00am
Town Hall, Middlesbrough

General Meeting Minutes

Attending: Mike Roff (Vice Chair), Councillor Carson, Mike Cherrett, Peter Clark, Christine Corbett.

Guests: Andrew Casey – Head of Transport Planning at Darlington Borough Council, and Rob Farnham - Principal Transport Planning Officer at Middlesbrough Council.

Officers attending: Stewart Williams, Chris Scaife, Beryl Bird, Rob Morrow.

Apologies: Rob Brown (Vice Chair), Yvonne Ramage (Chair), Councillor Cranney, Councillor Young, Graham Clingan, Robin Daniels, Paul Harman, David Reed, Steve Petch, Tony Gordon.

1. Introduction and Welcome

Mike Roff chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and thanked Stewart for hosting. Andy Casey Head of Transport Planning at Darlington Borough Council and Rob Farnham, Principal Transport Planning Officer at Middlesbrough Council and all members introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Minutes of 29th June 2017 General Meeting & Matters Arising

Councillor Carson asked for a correction to item 8.1 under AOB. Councillor Carson wished to clarify that the new footpath section now open in Darlington town centre was a section from Albert Street to John Street which goes under the 1825 Stevenson Bridge.

4. Middlesbrough new Dock Bridge and Stainsby Way Western Extension

MR welcomed Rob Farnham, Principal Transport Planning Officer, from Middlesbrough Council to the meeting.

Rob began by outlining the history of the site near the Docks, formerly a swing road bridge and latterly a swing footbridge. In 1980 the Docks were closed and the swing bridge removed in 1983. Over the years remediation work has been undertaken, and in the last few weeks the footbridge that formed part of the National Cycle Network has been removed. Rob circulated the attached map and an artist's impression with a view from the Riverside Stadium.

Essentially the Scott's Road and Shepherdson Way crossroads will be signalised and pedestrianised. Scott's Road north will be re-aligned (following the purchase of land from Able UK) to create space for the new Snow Centre, next to the Clock Tower. The route

would then continue along Scott's Road north, along Vulcan Street, near to the Middlesbrough College and around the Riverside Park Road. This improved access would assist the development of the Riverside Park. Piling work begins at the end of September 2017 for the new Dock Bridge.

This bascule bridge (similar in design to Tower Bridge) will have the road in the middle and have a shared use footpath and cycleway each way. The machinery to open the bridge automatically will not be part of this initial development, but will be acquired over time; the present construction will be complete by August 2018.

SW described the history behind the temporary closures of footpaths to the present day. At present the ECP runs around the south side of the Dock and the Teesdale Way runs around the north side; SW plans to divert past the new proposed Snow Centre with both paths meeting at the Clock Tower. The old section of Scott's Road will be a new car park, and the footpath on this road will be diverted off it.

MR asked if the new highway could cope with the volume of traffic coming on to Vulcan Street and Durham Street. Rob thought the planned highway improvements could manage the growing volume of traffic; at present the Middlesbrough FC manages a TRO with three approach roads closed on match day, this TRO would be extended to include the new road. At present the A66 through Middlesbrough hosts over 70,000 vehicles every day.

Rob moved on to describe the new spine road (map attached), the Stainton Way Western Extension. Highways England are altering the A174/A19 Parkway Interchange, with Middlesbrough Council and the Developers at Low Lane providing the beginning of this new access road which will extend throughout the new housing developments as they are built and link eventually to an enlarged and signalised A1130 roundabout on Mandale Road.

Highways England plan to signalise the Mandale Interchange to accommodate the increase in traffic, particularly the south bound exit on to the A19. They also recognise that the present Interchange is a barrier to pedestrians and cyclists and are working with SBC and MBC to resolve this.

The site at Low Lane, owned by Bellway and Storey Homes gained planning permission for 340 houses in 2011-12, these are underway. In July 2017 permission was granted for a further 290 houses on the adjacent site between Baldoon Sands and Stainsby Hall Farm.

Two Beck crossings have had to be designed into this new route and a further 1000 homes are expected to be developed between Stainsby Hall Farm and Stainsby Hill Farm during the life of the present Middlesbrough Town Plan.

At present, the Transport Planning Team are working through the costs; a S106 is in place, and capital budgets from MBC are available. They plan to submit a bid for funding to the Housing Infrastructure Fund by the close of September 2017, and estimate the total costs for the works to be £8.5M. All assessments and design work is on schedule to be completed by the end of 2017.

SW described his involvement in the project at an early stage, and recognised that the route through Bluebell Beck is an unrecorded RoW. The proposed new road will affect the RoW. The red area (on the map) is planned to become a car park with the South Middlesbrough Country Park becoming a reality with plans to locate it between Stainsby Beck and Bluebell Beck. SW hopes to upgrade the public footpath past Stainsby Hall Farm into a bridleway, and plans for a multi user route between SBC and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council; these developments will lead to an increase in the RoW available.

Responses to questions included the provision of a new Primary School, shops and a visitor centre, with Management Plans in place to take care of local green spaces.

MR thanked Rob for his very comprehensive presentation.

5. Darlington By Pass

MR welcomed Andy Casey, Head of Transport Planning at Darlington Borough Council Darlington to the meeting. Andy circulated the TVCA 'Connecting Tees Valley' programme and DBC plans (attached). He outlined the background to the proposals which had developed from a Highways England study into the A19/A1 connectivity, with three main issues to consider – access to ports, industry needs and the A66. All four Teesside authorities were included in the survey.

ARUPs produced a desktop study and six routes were initially highlighted using Lidar Mapping (where levels are taken to the nearest half metre). The six routes were between the routes shown on the map numbered 1 and 6, with routes 1 and 6 scoring the highest of the preferred routes. Neither of the alignments are fixed, they can move 100 m either way.

Andy went on to describe the huge connectivity of Darlington, the main rail line, the A66 and two junctions on the A1. MR asked if DBC had considered including slips; they had, the cost would be almost the same as a northern bypass and would actually increase travel times.

CS thought the southern route (6) the least contentious, as it appeared to cause the least damage to existing RoW.

Andy described the volume of traffic with the A1150 hosting almost 18,000 vehicles/day (and 5.9% HGV usage) and the A167 handling 22,000 vehicles/day (and 7% HGV usage). DBC are predicting HGV trips will increase and foresee a 60% increase in HGV usage by 2040. The 5% figure is double the national average.

4,500 new homes are being planned in Darlington, the cross town routes are already busy, and attention has been given to a road above the rail line and discounted, however the DBC is still looking at the local connections, and welcome any views. Fuller details on the proposed routes are available if required; they are hoping to consolidate the RoW in the area, without any losses.

MR stated we wouldn't want to see any severing of bridleway or highway routes without mitigation, Andy agreed all RoW must be accommodated. DBC are working on a'

masterplan' to double the volume of RoW by accessing sites along the river. Councillor Carson added that their consultants were planning a further round of public consultation later in September, which would be important for determining the route.

MR thanked Andy for his full presentation and both Rob and Andy left the meeting.

6. Chairman's Report

6.1 Officer updates

MR thanked the Officers for their quarterly updates and SW circulated those for Middlesbrough. There were a great number of plans underway; diversions, upgrades, new furniture to manage ASB, partnership work with the Cleveland Police, Network Rail and developers across Teesside, new signage and artwork. The Network Rail area between Middleton St George and Dinsdale was a cause for concern.

6.2 TLfD

Traffic Lights for Dogs project received a tremendous boost in September when HBC was invited to attend the All Party Parliamentary Group on Animal Welfare at the House of Lords. Beryl had attended and made a presentation on the work of the project and its continued success. Her report details the outcome of the meeting.

6.3 Planning Standards and Guidance Booklet

This had been discussed at the last meeting; Bedfordshire CC has allowed the use of their Standards Booklet, this has been 'tweaked' for use by our Local Authorities and the drafts submitted their Planning teams. SW reported that Middlesbrough planners were 'keen on the idea' and had plans to include it, once drafted, as a Policy document; Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees Borough Council's plans were similar. MR requested a further look at the documents once the revisions were in, and thought that Redcar and Cleveland should be included in the discussion. CS thought that Linda Tuttiet of the TVCA should also be sent a draft.

Action: BB to send Redcar and Cleveland a copy and invite them to join the discussion with a copy to the Combined Authority.

6.4 Planning Lists

Following on from the last meeting, requests to the Planning teams across our Appointing Authorities were made to include the TVLAF on all planning matters affecting access, early on in the planning process, so far this has met with good success and we have been included in all but one.

Action: Update at next meeting.

6.5 Regional meeting

There is a regional meeting on the 12th October in Durham, YR will attend.

Carson Carson left the meeting.

7. River Tees re-discovered Update

Christine outlined the latest news from RTR; the 5 year target for Guided Walks had been achieved by year 3, a tremendous achievement with partners and Volunteer Walk Leaders – of which there is still a need!

This winter sees further work on the ECP, Phase 2.

RTR have 'strongly objected' to the continued closure of the Black Path and hope it will be re-opened in November 2017.

Tees Renewable Energy, the new bio-gas generating plant has opened on Teesside and RTR are planning a community mural celebrating culture, on a retaining wall.

8. AOB

CS outlined the plans for a bypass at Elwick in Hartlepool. He is looking forward to improving access around the area and underpasses have been planned for RoW affected. Work is expected to begin on site, on the A19 by March 2018.

9. Date of next meeting

December 7th in Darlington 2017 at 10.00am (TBC)

Meeting closed at 12.30.