

# FAVERSHAM FOOTPATHS GROUP

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

The meeting was held at 4.30pm on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at the Guildhall in Faversham. All seven Members were present at the meeting, Trevor Payne (TP), Ann Ashton (AA), Anne Salmon (AS), Andrew Osborne (AO), John Coulter (JC), Julian Saunders (JS), Robin Sayewell (RS).

#### 1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*TP welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was the third Face to Face meeting since restrictions had been reduced.*

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR EC MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021

*These were approved.*

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

##### (i) Walks

*The FFG Sunday walks programme had its last walk on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021, but there was no October walk due to health and half-term issues. Unfortunately, another walk, which was planned for 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021 will also have to be cancelled and is now likely to be reprogrammed for early January 2022*

##### (ii) Website

*Stephen Caffarey is still putting new entries on to the website in way of meeting minutes and the walks programme as directed.*

##### (iii) Path from Jubilee Way to the Rec and proposed Faversham Rail Yard Application

*As agreed at a previous meeting TP, advised by AS, had submitted an objection to SBC concerning the application for residential development on the railyard site not including a direct footpath to Jubilee Way. The residential application is still awaiting determination by Swale BC that JS will follow up.*

(iv) Front Brents/Town Green

*The Environment Agency have advised AO that in terms of the tree planting they will work with their biodiversity colleagues to look into the suitability of planting saplings in the area suggested. Their current priority is to complete the remedial works and maintenance to the flood defence at Front Brents in the spring, and then potentially look at tree planting in the autumn depending on the availability of both funding and resources. The Environment Agency had recently carried out some works in the area, including raising the height of the bund and re-turfing the top. AO would continue to monitor the situation with respect to tree planting*

(v) Lost Ways Initiative

*As previous, Colin Sefton of Kent Ramblers had advised the Group that he had picked up this project from Neville Machin. He would be in touch if he required our help and to date no contact has been received.*

(vi) Walking and Cycling provision in Faversham linked with future proposals for the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan

(Walking and Cycling)

*JS had previously advised that Faversham Town Council (FTC) has been given funding by SBC for two Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure projects as follows :-*

- a. “Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)”. This will be a plan with outline costings for improving the infrastructure for cycling and walking so more residents and visitors make journeys not using cars’. A report on the audit, which recommends a number of potential improvements to the routes surveyed, will be considered by FTC in January 2022’*
- b. “The Town to Parishes Project”. This will identify walking and cycling routes from local villages to the three largest communities in Swale East – Boughton, Faversham and Teynham and make proposals for improving them so that more journeys are made via active travel.*

*The FTC has commissioned Phil Jones Associates and Berendt Consulting who subsequently asked for the Group EC’s help with the LCWIP scheme and a day was provided by members of the EC on 29th July 2021 to provide comments to the Consultants by taking part in an audit of certain routes around the town. Auditing of this review will be passed to FTC in January 2022*

(Neighbourhood Plan)

*As previous. TP had received a draft of the Footpath Policy FAV6 which was circulated to the committee for comment on the Footpaths policy. TP having written to Cllr Irwin recommending that the sites along the Creek including the inner basin and Ordnance Wharf that were to be developed under the plan should include a requirement for the provision of a Creekside footpath, as was the*

case with the Creek Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Irwin did reply by saying these would all be considered.

An exhibition was subsequently held by FTC at the Town Hall and JS said that a formal consultation exercise would take place soon.

#### (vii) Faversham Creek Bridge

AO is still pursuing KCC to comment specifically on the point he had raised about the need to ensure that the plans for the bridge did not preclude subsequently creating a Creekside path on both the Shepherd Neame car park side and the Inner Basin.

#### (viii) Creek Basin

AO had suggested we should write to the Town Council and TP has since had a reply from Councillor Irwin that had been distributed.

#### (ix) Vicarage Lane / Eastling Road

TP as previous has had a response from David who agrees that the road is dangerous and, while he had concerns about costs, would talk to his land agent about the situation. TP will still follow up.

#### (x) Rail Crossing for footpath ZR328 and other Footpath Issues

(ZR328) TP has subsequently advised steps have been installed to the embankment for this particular rail crossing

(Footpath Issues) Both TP and RS indicated two other footpaths with similar access issues, the first from Homestall Lane where KCC PROW have confirmed that the path (ZR496) will be cleared of crops to a minimum width of 1 meter by the land owner in the near future. The other, between Vicarage Lane and Water Lane, Ospringe alongside the M2 where RS has subsequently had confirmation from PROW, that improvements to the path alongside the M2 are to be carried out.

#### (xi) Brenley Corner

A Zoom meeting took place on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021, as organised by Highways England. Both JS and RS who attended reported how the meeting went. Highways England advised they had thirty national schemes to review with an overall budget of £330M, with Brenley being one of these on the list. A target date of 2025 had been set.

RS also advised that although his comments at that meeting were his views about any future diversionary link between the M2 motorway and the A2 trunk route to Dover on the 'surface' appearing not necessarily footpath related, he considered a totally revised layout as such would improve the current footpath, cycleway and Bridleway issues in considerably reducing traffic at this offending dangerous roundabout.

#### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP**

*AA advised the bank balance as at 10 August was £1326.94. Currently we have no outstanding outgoing payments to be made. There are now 17 members who have not yet paid their fees for the current year and she asked RS to write to those concerned prior to the AGM.*

#### **5. CREEKSIDE PATH ALONGSIDE FAVERSHAM REACH AND WATERSIDE CLOSE**

*AO reported from KCC's East Kent's Public Rights of Way & Access Service division that they have received the review of the work to date from the newly appointed civil / structural engineers. They have advised they will no doubt have some questions and will discuss further with them. They are hopeful they will then move to detail design stage, but are therefore still some way off construction, but they say it's moving in the right direction, as fast as it can.*

#### **6. ENGLAND COAST PATH**

*We still awaiting Natural England to commence works on the East side of the creek where the wall at Provender Walk is to be demolished. RS and TP have written numerous reminders and RS has written to them again.*

*RS previously reported there is now a further issue where between Hollowshore and the Oare Creek Road, a smallholder has moved his boundary onto the route of the England Coast Path. PROW confirmed that they and Swale Planning were already aware, and were investigating further.*

#### **7. EAST KENT RECYCLING LTD (EKR) PLANNING APPLICATION**

*RS had previously submitted a report and photos to the EC of works that have been commenced on seven number refuges. However, upon RS informing PROW, they have confirmed they are still pursuing Bretts over providing a dedicated footpath to be formed on the Lagoon side of the road.*

#### **8. SWALE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION - Reg19 (previously minuted as 'Proposals for Garden Villages / New Housing')**

*AS advised previously that Swale BC's decision to favour Option C in drawing up proposals for its new Local Plan pointed to some 3,500 new houses being built in Faversham in a 5-year rolling period from 2022. This would include 2,500 houses on the Duchy of Cornwall site. It remained to be seen how the Government's aims to reform the planning system would affect future plans.*

*AS also reported Network Rail had objected to the current planning application for 180 houses at Abbey-fields on the grounds that it would increase the use of the Chambers Crossing which is on footpath ZF29. This application has not been determined yet. However, the land north of Graveney Road allocated in the Reg. 19 Local Plan could have a greater effect on use of the level crossing. The Group will make comments supporting the need for the line of the footpath to be retained. We*

*have submitted comments on the footpath aspects of the plan to SBC. AS considered that it is likely there will be a public enquiry next year. To take account of changes in Government policy and challenges to previous consultations, SBC are re-consulting at the Regulation 18 'Issues & Options' stage of the Local Plan. This runs from 29th October to 29th November. The FFG will wait for the next Regulation 19 stage to comment on footpath issues.*

## **9. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL PATHS**

*A meeting regarding the 'Definitive Map Project' took place at Faversham Town Hall on 3rd August 2021, and the Group EC's proposals were well received, but the freehold ownerships could be an issue.*

*AO still considers it likely that an exhibition in the new Town Hall would be beneficial to obtain support.*

*AO has reported on more further progress in finalising the maps showing the paths for which the Group envisaged making a claim for additions to the Definitive Map of Footpaths*

## **10. AGM 2021**

*It is arranged to hold the meeting this year at the Guildhall at 7.30pm on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021.*

*Adrian Berendt of Berendt Consulting who is leading the LCWIP scheme for FTC will make a presentation at the meeting.*

## **11. LOG OF ISSUES RAISED**

*AA has volunteered to change this Word document to Excel to assist in making it more workable.*

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

*This meeting will be held at 4.30pm on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at the Guildhall in Faversham.*

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*No other business was discussed.*