

Valley Parishes Alliance Meeting

3rd February 2016

Monkton Combe Village Hall

Present: Hugh Delap (Freshford), Des Wighton (Monkton Combe), Anna Beria (Claverton), Steve Mackerness (Bathford), Robin Davies (Winsley), Hugh Baker – Chair (Bathford), Emma Adams (Batheaston), Chris Jenson (Claverton), Moira Brennan (Bathampton)
Ingrid Maher Roberts – Minute secretary

1.0 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from David Gwyther (Limpley Stoke), Lyn Alvis (Monkton Combe)

2.0 Minutes from meeting on 25th November and matters arising.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3.0 Feedback from Jacob Rees Mogg meeting

Steve Mackerness and Hugh Baker (Bathford), George Riley (Batheaston), Moira Brennan (Bathampton), Anna Beria (Claverton), Hugh DeLap (Freshford) met with Jacob Rees Mogg on the 11th December. It was clear from the meeting that VPA members could not persuade him to change his view on the issue of the A36/46 link road. JRM believed that a link road would be convenient for his constituents to either drive into Bath or access the motorway more quickly. It was noted that JRM did not appear to have as much regard for the constituents who would be more directly affected by a link road. JRM confirmed that the strongest argument against the link road would be an economic one. All projects had to stand up to scrutiny economically and it could not progress if it did not demonstrate enough benefit to justify the cost. He would also oppose the link if it were not 'a thing of beauty'.

Following the meeting the VPA working group who had met with JRM identified three action points.

1. Contact Louise Fradd to seek clarity on what B&NES are doing to progress the 'fully costed business case for an East of Bath link road' as stated in the minutes of its meeting on the 17th December.

Action: MB will be attending a Transport Committee Meeting on the 31st March, which Louise Fradd will also be attending. It was agreed to wait and see what information comes from this meeting before contacting her.

2. Contact environmental groups such as the CPRE, National Trust, AONB Board and the Bath Preservation Trust to engage with them over the link road and provide them with information so that they can have the same level of understanding as the VPA about the impact this would have on the valley.

<p>Action: MB & AB to draft a letter to send to the environmental groups highlighting the beauty of the valley.</p> <p>3. Ask residents to campaign to protect the valley and oppose any link Road Plans. Using a similar approach as the P&R opposition campaign.</p> <p>Action: Wait until there are specific plans which residents can oppose.</p> <p>4.0 P&R community meeting on 1st February 2016</p> <p>The Meadows Alliance met with Liz Richardson, Louise Fradd and Tim Warren to discuss the P&R proposals. The petition has been signed by just under 10,000, the number required to present a petition to Downing Street. Data produced by Bath Hacked representative Andrew Lea was presented at the meeting. This highlighted that between October 2014 and January 2016 over 1200 unused spaces were available at P&R sites each week. With occasional peaks associated with the Christmas Market and other events such as rugby matches. The busiest time at the P&R site was 11am highlighting that those using the P&R were not targeted commuters. This pattern was similar in all three P&R sites.</p> <p>The Batheaston area is very sensitive in terms of air quality. Nitrogen Dioxide levels are already very close to the annual mean standard of 40ug/m³. With pollution levels this high already, it could not sustain further traffic produced by a new P&R. VPA members will be attending a Scrutiny Panel meeting on the 22nd March and will present their finding again then.</p> <p>5.0 VPA Highways meeting</p> <p>Sean Walsh – Asset Manager for Highways England clarified HE position on any potential A36/46 Link road. If asked to consider it by government they will do so. In his view it's assessment would also need to consider the wider impacts on the A36. That does not mean it would be discounted but that consideration should not be in isolation. There is a long list of traffic infrastructure schemes that will be required to support growth, which will eventually be reduced to a much shorter list. These schemes will then be tested to establish what may be required in a given locality to accommodate that growth. The A36/46 link is on that list for consideration as are many other proposals. The exercise will ultimately result in an evidence base for a West of England wide spatial strategy that will determine where growth will be earmarked in the future. As it stands the Route Strategy process will inform government spending from 2020/21-2025/26. HE call this period RIS 2. RIS 1 was/is from 2015/16 to 2020/21.</p> <p>If the A36/46 scheme does come through the RS process as a possible study or scheme, unless someone in government accelerates things, it would be unlikely to progress until after the start of that period. HE will not know if the proposal will progress</p>	<p>MB/AB</p>
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<p>until after the Autumn statement of 2017. Action: HD to discuss with Sean Walsh if he is happy for Tony Clarke to attend the next VPA HE meeting.</p> <p>6.0 Finance and Membership update There is currently £3,717 in the bank and subs are due again in April. Following discussion with members it was agreed that it was no longer appropriate for Hinton Charterhouse to remain as a member due their opposing views on the A36//46 Link Road. VPA opposition to a Link Road is a founding principle of the group and it is important that all members are in agreement on this issue. HCPC would still be welcome to attend VPA Highways meetings Action: IMR to send out membership invoices in April IMR to write to the chairman of HCPC informing them of the decision to stop their VPA membership.</p> <p>7.0 Any other Business Members thanked MB for her work on producing a response from the VPA on the Joint Spatial Strategy Consultation. Members agreed that if the community voted in favour of a Mayor for B&NES at the referendum on the 10th March, they would ask potential candidates to come to a VPA meeting.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 1.35pm NEXT VPA Meetings 4th May (AGM), 7th September, 7th Dec 2016.</p> <p>Monkton Combe Village Hall</p>	<p>HD</p> <p>IMR IMR</p>
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