

Valley Parishes Alliance Meeting
25th November 2015
Monkton Combe Village Hall

Present: Hugh Delap (Freshford), Des Wighton (Monkton Combe), Anna Beria (Claverton), Steve Mackerness (Bathford), Robin Davies (Winsley), Hugh Baker (Bathford), Lyn Alvis (Monkton Combe), Emma Adams (Batheaston), Lin King (Bathampton), Susanne Hagen (Batheaston), Tim Warren, Tony Clarke (B&NES)

Ingrid Maher Roberts – Minute secretary

1.0 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Nick Stevens (Freshford), David Gwyther (Limpley Stoke), Moira Brennan (Bathampton)

2.0 Tim Warren (Council Leader) & Tony Clarke (Cabinet Member for Transport)

HB welcomed TW and TC to the VPA meeting.

Park and Ride - TW updated members on the Park and Ride consultation process. TW confirmed that the consultation could have been handled in a better way. He had been under the impression that more work on the consultation had happened than actually occurred. B&NES have now agreed the need for a P&R scheme, but not the specific location. TW confirmed that site F was very unpopular and he would find it hard to vote in favour of this option. B&NES are working with Wilts Council as they have identified a possible site in Wiltshire on the Box Road. TW confirmed this site had already been identified in the Halcro report. The next stage of the process will be for Scrutiny Committee led by John Ball to hold two public meetings early in the new year. The Local Democratic Framework group will also meet to discuss the issue.

VPA members queried the evidence base for actually having a P&R. Oxford is the 5th most congested city in Europe and it has 5 P&R sites. Sheffield is the 7th most congested city in Europe with 8 P&R sites. Members were concerned that there was not sufficient evidence to support the fact that a P&R would solve the traffic problems.

TW reiterated that there is an East of Bath traffic problem, B&NES are committed to building 6000 new dwellings, creating more jobs, homes, businesses and traffic. The other P&R sites have over 1million users a year. B&NES are trying to dissuade commuters from parking in Bath. Members highlighted that it is not convenient for businesses to use P&R's as they need to be able to get to and from their businesses easily. VPA members reiterated how important it was to put the evidence/data of traffic levels and the need for a P&R site into the public domain.

<p><u>A36/46 Link Road</u> – TW confirmed that they support the upgrading of the A350 and it becoming the main strategic route for traffic, rather than the A36/A46. However, TW believes this is a long-term solution and an A36/46 Link Road could be a solution in the short term. The VPA highlighted that the same reasons the plan was rejected 25 years ago still apply. The geology of the A36 is poor and the road will continue to subside with increased traffic levels. TC confirmed that traffic levels on the London Road had reduced from 20,000 to just over 10,000. TC confirmed that if Highways England did not support the Link Road then B&NES would not be able to proceed with this option.</p> <p>3.0 Jacob Rees Mogg Meeting It was agreed that Anna, Steve, Hugh B and Hugh D meet with JRM on the 11th December at his offices in Keynsham. A pre-meeting will be held on the 1st Dec to discuss their approach to the meeting.</p> <p>4.0 VPA Highways update It was agreed to invite Tony Clarke to the next VPA/Highways meeting.</p> <p>5.0 Finance The current bank balance is £4,067.</p> <p>6.0 Neighbourhood Plan (NS) Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan was formally ‘made’ on the 4th November.</p> <p>7.0 VPA K&A Canal Committee The committee meeting notes had been circulated to VPA members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 2.00pm NEXT VPA Meetings for 2016: 3rd February, 4th May (AGM), 7th September, 7 December.</p> <p>Monkton Combe Village Hall</p>	<p>AB/SM/HB/ HD</p> <p>HD</p>
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