



LRGs- Update Webinar

26th March 2025



Housekeeping

Our aim is for this session to be as useful and informative as possible.

With this in mind, please note the following:

- All participants will be muted for the duration of this presentation, but are invited to submit questions via the chat function.
- The webinar will be recorded
- We'll endeavour to answer questions during the Q&A session, but may not be able to do so in the time available. Therefore, please submit any unanswered questions to: contact@eastwestrail.co.uk.
- A copy of the slides will be available on the community hub following this presentation.

Agenda



18.00-18.05	Welcome & Housekeeping	Sarah Jacobs, Senior Engagement Manager, Local Representative Groups
18:05 – 18:20	EWR Update	DCO-TBC
18:20 – 18:30	Engagement Activity	Sarah Jacobs, Senior Engagement Manager, Local Representative Groups
18:30 – 18:40	LRGs- Update	Sarah Jacobs, Senior Engagement Manager, Local Representative Groups
18:40 – 18.55	Q&A	All
19.00	Close	Sarah Jacobs, Senior Engagement Manager, Local Representative Groups

EWR updates

Project Updates

Chiltern Railways announced as operator for the first stage of East West Rail.

The Transport Secretary has announced the operator for a new set of rail services along the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor.

- A total of 45 apprentice train drivers have been hired and trained by Chiltern Railways.
- Additional facilities for driver accommodation at Bletchley have been delivered where a new driver depot will be based.
- An additional 30 employees have been hired by Chiltern Railways to support the delivery of the project.

Chiltern Railways will launch services later this year which will connect Oxford, Oxford Parkway, Bicester, Winslow, Bletchley and Milton Keynes Central.



Project updates

- Start of preparatory works for EWR – first construction-related activity with ground investigation surveys.
- Ongoing engagement with land and property owners within the draft order limits.
- Analysing feedback and considering it as part of design development, where possible.
- Looking at ways to further reduce potential environmental impacts including through reducing the height of railway and revising use of land.
- Reviewing access and connectivity to stations.
- Confirming locations for railway depots.
- We are working through the Scoping Opinion, as well as individual consultee responses, to consider updates to the scope of and approach to the EIA .



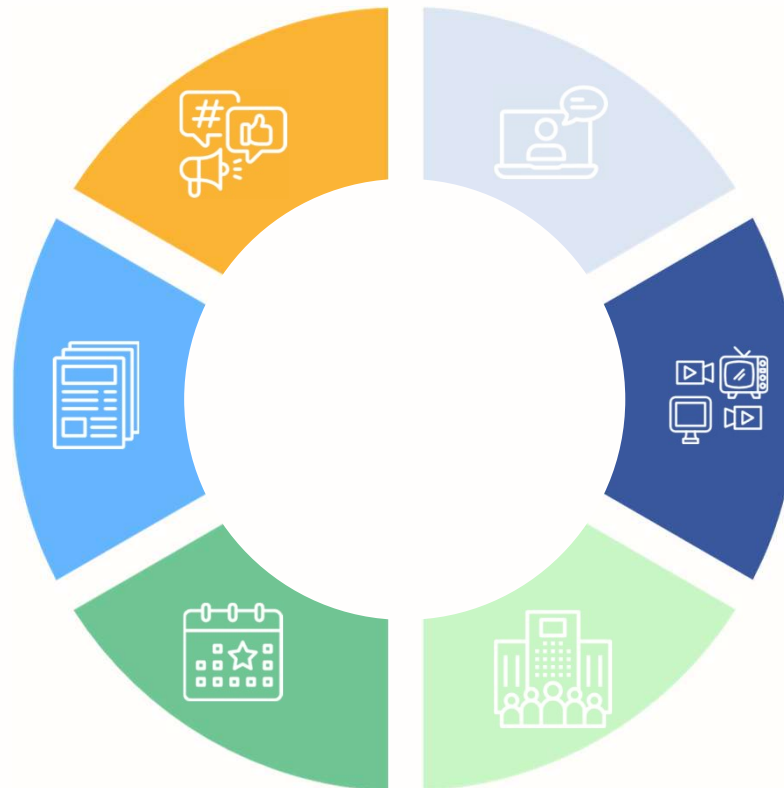
Non-statutory consultation-snapshot

Throughout consultation period:

- Website consultation page views: 44,498
- Interactive map views: 6,034
- Virtual Consultation Room views: 5,800
- Correspondence emails: 801
- New Facebook followers: 379
- Facebook engagements: 8,564
- Facebook reach: 109,037
- Facebook impressions: 9,960,290

Feedback received: 6,215

Event attendance: 5,206



Online events:

Event 1: 40 attendees
Event 2: 30 attendees
Event 3: 47 attendees

Media mentions by category:

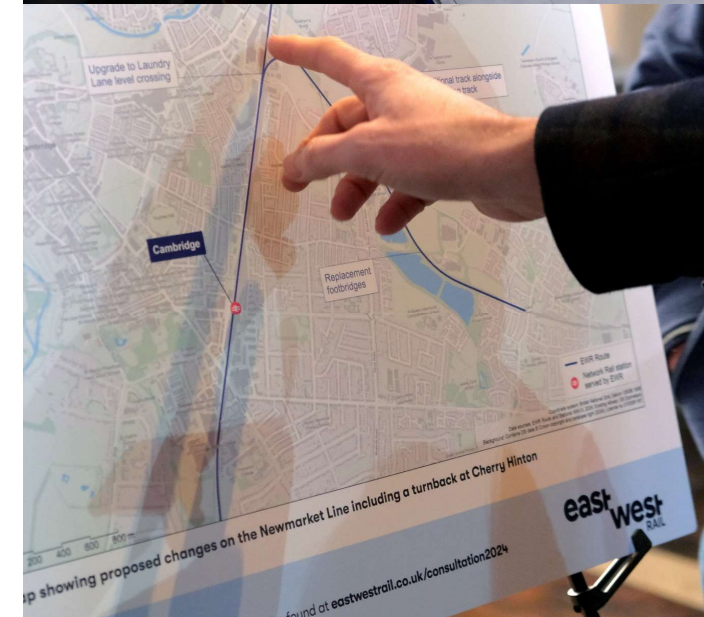
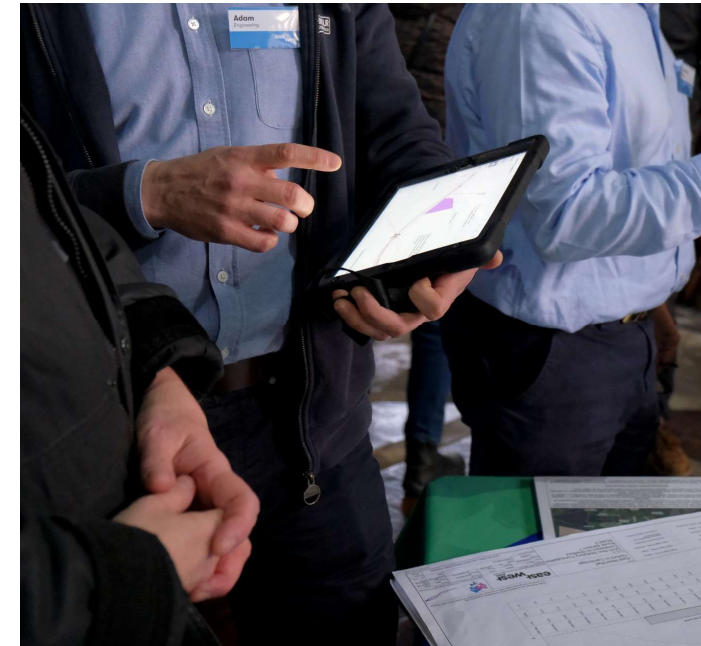
Broadcast: 329
Print: 153
Online: 329
Total mentions: 811

Trade mentions:

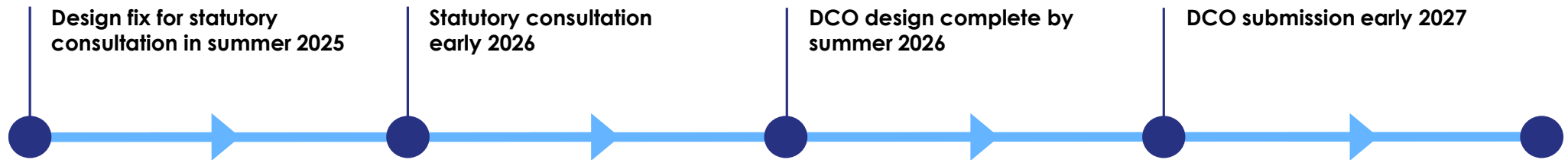
61 (part of online and print coverage above)

Non-statutory consultation (NSC): Next steps

- Feedback analysis is currently being carried out and being considered as part of design development, where possible.
- A **NSC summary document** is expected to be published late April to early May and will provide a summary of how we delivered the consultation, who we heard from and the emerging themes from consultation feedback.
- Outcomes from how we have considered feedback in the design will form part of a **You Said, We Did** report published at statutory consultation.



Delivery roadmap



Key themes:

Environment
Traffic modelling
Highways
Active travel and transport

Public rights of way
Construction
Stations & wider growth opps

Achieved only through
high quality engagement
with you.

What we'd like to engage on

Engagement approach

- There has been a noticeable shift in awareness of the project and its public profile due to the highlighted support from government
- We are developing plans on how we intend to support communities and local businesses as we progress through the stages of planning and look towards delivery through engagement initiatives and partnerships
- We are committed to making the most of opportunities that will be available to people who live along the route in terms of employment and commercial opportunities

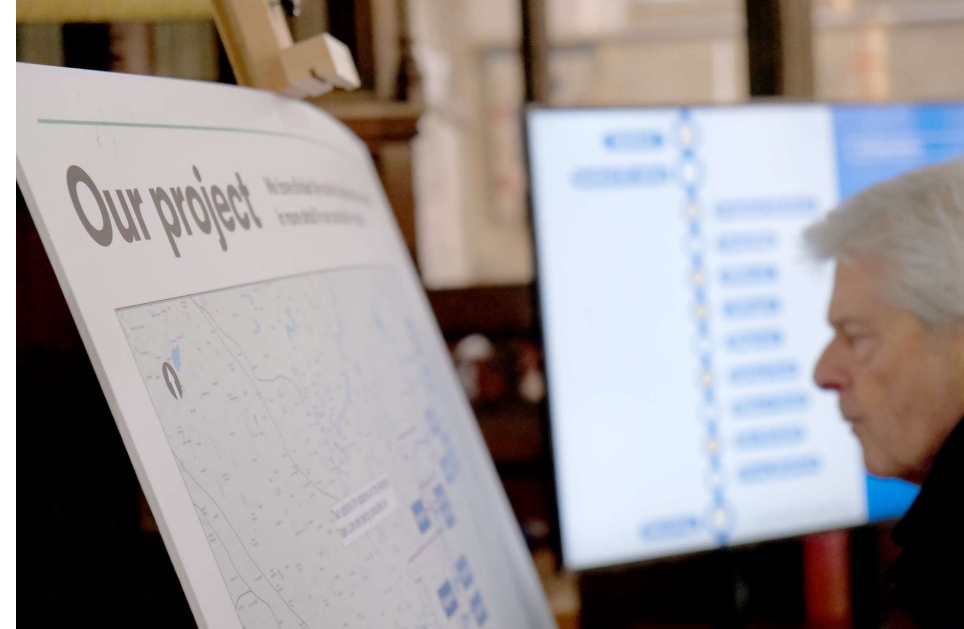
'Europe's Silicon Valley' at heart of government's growth plans, Rachel Reeves to announce

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RAIL

'Europe's Silicon Valley' will be at heart of government's growth plans – Reeves

The Chancellor will say that Britain has 'fundamental strengths' but has been 'held back' and accepted 'stagnation' in her address in Oxfordshire on Wednesday

Chancellor bets on 'Europe's Silicon Valley' as key to growth



Key issues for engagement

NSC is helping to sharpen our focus and steer engagement towards overcoming issues. Engagement will continue to help refine our proposals. At this stage, we can begin to outline some key issues for engagement with you in the run up to statutory consultation.

- **Environmental mitigations** – reducing and mitigating impacts in the best way including traffic, construction, protective provisions and local impact reports
- **Landowner engagement** – providing clarity and certainty with landowners and where we can make improvements
- **Active travel** – maintaining PROWs, encouraging active travel, enabling broader incentives
- **Design developments** – understanding potential changes to design in your area and seeking feedback
- **Area specific issues** – key issues needing multi-disciplinary and at times multi-stakeholder input, including highways, environment and emerging station designs. What other issues do you think require this approach?
- **Stations and localised opportunities** – understanding ways benefits can be designed in locally
- **Traffic and transport and highways** – including construction management plans
- **Your NSC feedback**



Tracking issues

We're committed to working to resolve issues as we progress the project, to ensure this informs our design, where possible, and will be seeking to reach agreement on issues as much as possible.



Issues will be tracked within our Stakeholder Relationship Management system. We will regularly provide visibility of our current live issues trackers within our meetings and can provide issues reports when requested.



We will use issues topics to determine future engagement, and this will help us to develop agendas for meetings, interactive design workshops, as well as identifying any need for further briefings or workshops.



Following statutory consultation in early 2026, issues trackers will be used to inform and develop Position Statements where needed with Parish Councils. Issues trackers will also help form a list of Potential Main Issues for the Examination (PMIE) which will be entered into the examination as an application document.

LRGs- Update

LRGs: history and evolution

A series of 'Design Feedback Workshops' were delivered in January 2025 during the Non-Statutory Consultation with the parishes & wards that fall within the **Draft Order Limit Boundary (DOLB)**. This resulted in the restructure of the LRGs.

These new groups will be referred to as **Enhanced LRGs**. Those LRGs outside of the DOLB will now be part of the '**Community LRG**'

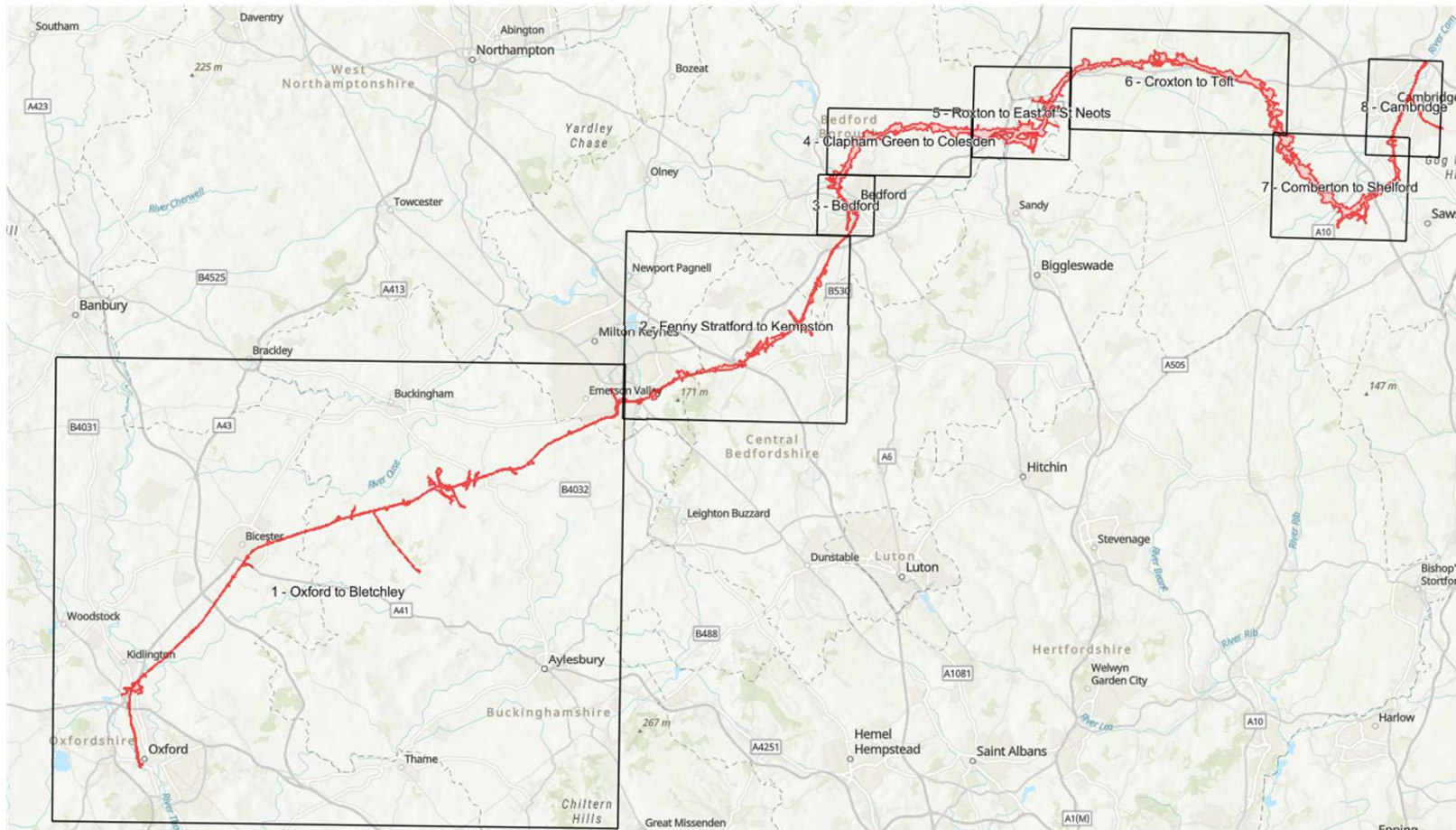
Enhanced LRGs

- Oxford to Bletchley
- Fenny Stratford to Kempston
- Bedford
- Clapham Green to Colesden
- Roxton to east of St Neots
- Croxton to Toft
- Comberton to Haslingfield
- Foxton to Shelford
- Cambridge

There will be instances where groups are closely aligned to other groups- and we welcome those members joining additional meetings.



LRG groups and the red line boundary



* Please note this map is not a final version - final maps will be available to view on the Community Hub in the coming days



Enhanced LRGs & Community LRG

Enhanced LRGs

- The Enhanced LRGs will meet quarterly
- We are continuing to review the lists and receive feedback to ensure we have all those within the DOLB.
- The next round of meetings will be in person between the end of April - Mid June to account for some local elections in May.
- Invitations will be issued soon, and more information will follow

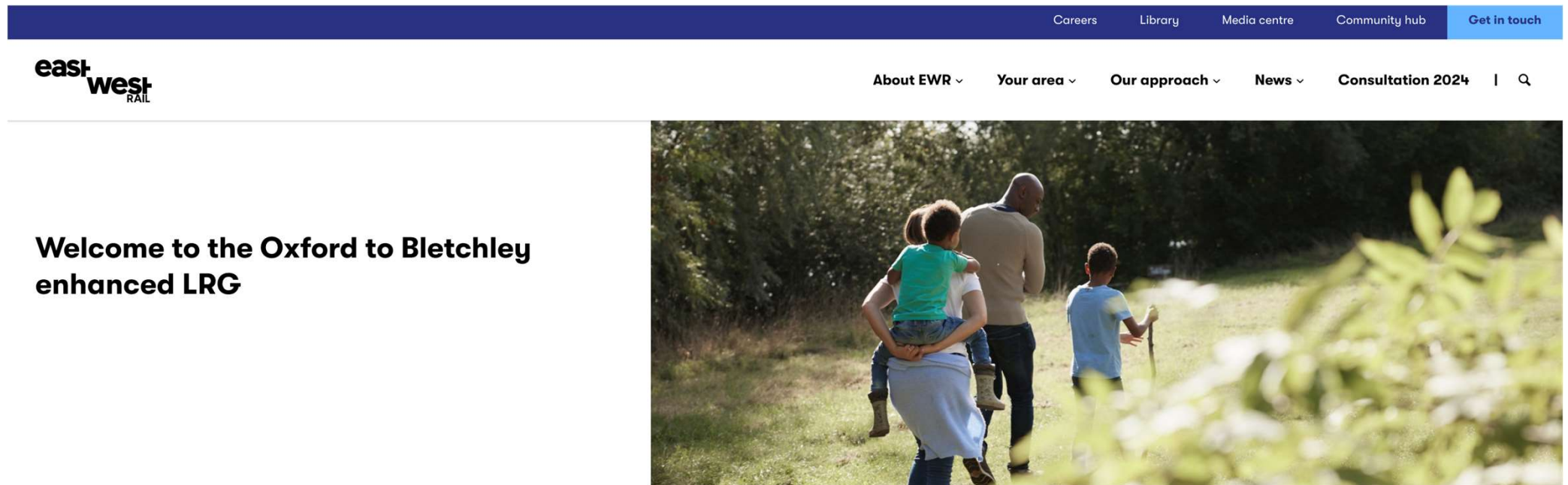
Community LRG

- There will be an additional two **LRG webinars** which will be open to all LRGs' and can provide an opportunity to update members on the overall project status.
- **Community Conversations** will also offer community members an opportunity to talk with us about various topics across the route. These will include targeted engagement activity, information events and topic focussed community engagement.

Communities

- We have regular contact with community groups across the route such as Community Rail Partnerships, active travel groups and charities.
- We engage with communities in various ways such as by holding **community conversations**, sharing regular newsletters, via our social media posts and attending community group forums and events.
- **Community conversations** offer community members an opportunity to talk with us about various topics across the route. Where possible we'll hold these every quarter.
- We will ensure details are shared with you about any upcoming community conversations.
- If there are any forums or events in your area that you would like us to consider attending, please do let us know.

Update to LRGs- Community Hub pages



Q&A