

Buckinghamshire Group - Meeting summary

Meeting #3 - Details

Date: Thursday 20 October 2022

Time: 7:00 pm

Type of meeting: Virtual / Zoom

Documents discussed in this meeting

The following documents were discussed during the meeting and are available on the Group's dedicated Community Hub site – [here](#):

- Slides;
- Agenda;
- Action tracker.

Key points, actions and outcomes

1. Agenda

1.1 Ian Parker (IP) welcomed attendees and thanked them for attending. IP outlined the agenda for the meeting and ran through the housekeeping points.

2. Review of actions from meeting #2

2.1 There were four actions from Meeting 2, three of which have been completed and one which is still ongoing. The outstanding action relates to information on last train times and timing of freight. IP explained that there is no update at this time.

2.2 Kate Campbell (KC) confirmed the date of the East West Rail Alliance (EWRA) community drop-in session was 24 October.

3. Topic: Active Travel / First Mile Last Mile

3.1 Will Ryan (WR) introduced the First Mile Last Mile (FMLM) concept, explaining that it is a customer's journey from door-to-door. He explained how EWR Co wants to enable Active Travel / FMLM with inclusivity and accessibility at the heart of the solution; how EWR Co wants to promote it; and how EWR Co could simplify the whole journey for its customers.

- 3.2 WR outlined that active travel means making journeys by physically active means, such as walking or cycling, and gave examples of how poor maintenance on cycle paths connected to train stations could affect active travel.
- 3.3 An attendee raised current issues when travelling to Winslow station, including poor crossing provisions from a cycle path down the northern side of the A413 to access the train station. The attendee also raised an issue of poor maintenance of cycle paths in the area and complaints they had received from residents that they have escalated to the Council, suggesting that EWR Co could second these concerns with the Council. WR confirmed that conversations are taking place to improve travel plans to the station. IP confirmed that this could be followed up through with the Highways team at Buckinghamshire Council.
- 3.4 WR discussed potential opportunities to promote active travel, including secure cycle/scooter parking, cycle/scooter hire, reviewing cycle conveyance on trains, healthy eating options at stations and an active travel pack/bundle, among other ideas.
- 3.5 An attendee asked if there would be scooter parking provision within the new Winslow station. WR confirmed that within the specification for cycle parking, EWR Co are looking at providing scooter parking provisions, as well as looking for areas of the station where hiring facilities could be located.
- 3.6 An attendee asked if the elevators within the station would be large enough to hold cycles. IP confirmed that they will be big enough.
- 3.7 An attendee questioned whether an EWR ticketing system to enable connections to and from stations would be compatible with other systems. WR confirmed that the aim is to find the best way to make connections easy, including plug-ins to other ticketing systems and fostering partnerships with other user systems.
- 3.8 An attendee asked if there will be seating provisions on the platforms, including covered seating. WR confirmed that EWR Co is engaging with partners to ensure that there are provisions for all weather conditions.

4. Topics for future meetings

- 4.1 IP asked attendees for suggestions for future meetings.
- 4.2 An attendee suggested that they would like to see a topic based on the lessons learnt from the EWRA from the previous stages of the construction programme and what will be done next. The attendee gave an example of leaving enough time between programme approval and things starting on the ground. IP agreed this would be helpful.
- 4.3 An attendee asked what would happen to temporary infrastructure put in place to build the railway, and what will be the impact and cost to remove it, including Highways Authorities and town and county councils. They suggested this could be covered at a future meeting. Another attendee agreed with this point and suggested a future topic of the environmental impacts of the project for future meetings. IP agreed with this and suggested from a local context.
- 4.4 Another attendee asked how much interest there has been in the future service pattern timetable, and opportunities for observing station construction for local schools. IP suggested

a discussion of social value and KC suggested the opportunity to discuss safety measures and associated STEM opportunities.

- 4.5 An attendee suggested information on future parking arrangements for Winslow and the impact on the nearby road network as a result, as well as information on the future of construction compounds and potential opportunities for turning it into green space. They also stated that EWR Co should be liaising with the local school to ensure exam dates have been shared, with the goal to minimise disruption through construction. It was later raised by another attendee that the compounds are used under a temporary use of the land, and that it will revert back to agricultural use. Attendees asked if that's the case rather than having it as a future topic could the town and county councillors be made aware of the timelines for removal of temporary structures and restoration of the land.
- 4.6 An attendee also raised that a local Facebook group has a number of posts with information of the scheduled drop-in session, with particular mention of schools having sight of the track laying process.
- 4.7 One attendee asked whether there will be a connection with Aylesbury that would go through Quainton and/or transport links from Quainton to Winslow so that they are able to access EWR, rather than driving to Oxford or Milton Keynes. WR comments that this links to active travel and acknowledges the challenge of rural areas and once more details and solutions are identified, more information will be available.
- 4.8 One attendee suggested support for the roll out of a demand responsive transport (DRT) network around Winslow as a more efficient way to connect smaller villages to Winslow station once services are up and running. It was suggested as a good opportunity to promote EWR. The attendee also asked whether there is an interest in a DRT and whether it is being considered as part of FMLM; WR agreed to take the conversation offline.

Outcome 1: EWR Co to request that EWRA ensures that town and county councillors are aware of the temporary construction infrastructure timelines and removal and restoration of the land.

Outcome 2: Social Values, Lessons learned from the Alliance, Environmental Impacts and Surveys and Winslow station design are to be added to future topics. EWR Co will liaise with EWRA to seek to secure appropriate guest speakers.

5. Topic: Compulsory Purchase

- 5.1 Martin Wheeler (MW) introduced the topic and summarised the information to be presented. MW clarified that the term landowners is an overarching term for homeowners, landowners, business owners and occupiers.

Engagement with homeowners and landowners

5.2 MW outlined the ways that homeowners and landowners will be engaged with throughout the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. MW discussed the different ways that EWR Co engage with landowners.

Compulsory Acquisition

5.3 MW recapped the DCO timeline and reminded the Group that we are in the pre-application phase.

5.4 MW outlined the process for acquiring land, including how landowners, other occupiers and those with rights to land, are identified and recorded in a Book of Reference (BoR). He explained how after the DCO comes into force there will be a period (usually 5 years) in which the powers of compulsory acquisition can be exercised.

5.5 Nick Rushton (NR) gave an overview of compulsory purchase compensation based on the acquisition of an entire property, part of a property, part of a farm, permanent rights in the land, temporary possession and when no land is required.

5.6 NR also gave an overview of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) mandatory guide followed by surveyors, and specific laws related to compensation including Part 1 (of the Land Compensation Act 1973) or Section 10 (of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965). NR explained how fees such as surveyors' fees and legal fees are reimbursed by EWR Co.

5.7 MW clarified that guides for both Part 1 and Section 10 are available on the EWR Co website.

5.8 MW summarised the key points to note, and that EWR Co will be engaging with landowners to reduce and mitigate any impact. He emphasised that compulsory acquisition powers will only be used if an agreement is not reached and that landowners can be represented to ensure they receive what they are entitled to.

Questions

5.9 An attendee questioned if they were still acquiring land for the current phase of the project. IP clarified that they were talking about future phases of the project.

5.10 An attendee stated that parts of the route (Bletchley to Bicester) are owned by Network Rail and questioned whether the DCO process will impact on Network Rail and the land they have acquired through compulsory acquisition. IP explained that EWR Co will be responsible for compulsory acquisition for the route upgrade, that EWR Co is aligned with Network Rail and EWR Co represents the Department for Transport's interest in that section. They also explained that Network Rail is the owner of the asset, and that land acquired as part of the Bletchley to Bicester part of the project has been acquired by Network Rail, not EWR Co.

5.11 The attendee then asked if Network Rail's ownership of that section would lead to mixed ownership on the upgraded route between Bletchley to Bedford. IP clarified that this will not be an issue.

An attendee asked when Winslow station will be open and what train services will be operational at this point. IP explained that the phase is due for completion in 2025, and there will be services to Oxford and Bicester, as well as trains through Winslow and Bletchley and towards Milton Keynes. The existing route between Bletchley and Bedford is planned for upgrade during the next phase.

6. AOB and closing remarks

IP summarised the details of the meeting and the topics covered and thanked everyone for attending.

Summary of Actions:

ACTION 1: EWR Co – To raise cycle route maintenance in meetings with Buckinghamshire Council.

Attendees:

EWR Co attendees

- Ian Parker, EWR Co Lead;
- Martin Wheeler, EWR Co Specialist – Surveyor;
- Nick Rushton, EWR Co Specialist – Surveyor;
- Will Ryan, EWR Co Specialist – Operations Executive, Active Travel/FMLM;
- Kate Campbell, EWR Co Specialist – Senior Communications Manager;
- EWR Co production and support team.

Parish Council representatives

- Steve Simpson, Little Horwood Parish Council;
- Jon Stone, Adstock Parish Council;
- Mike Chapman, Newton Longville Parish Council;
- Roger Slevin, Winslow Parish Council;
- Nicolette Smith, Quainton Parish Council.

Ward Council representatives

- John Chilver, Winslow in Buckinghamshire Council;
- Caroline Cornell, Buckingham West and Winslow;
- Iain Macpherson, Great Brickhill in Buckinghamshire Council.

Other attendees

- Ian Kelly, Parliamentary Assistant and Caseworker for Greg Smith Member of Parliament for Buckingham;
- Susan Browning, EWR Stakeholder & Community Lead, Buckinghamshire Council.

Apologies

- Addington Parish Council;
- Calvert Green Parish Council;
- Charndon Parish Council;
- Drayton Parslow Parish Council;
- Dunton Parish Council;
- East Claydon Parish Council;
- Granborough Parish Council;
- Great Brickhill Parish Council;
- Great Horwood Parish Council;
- Grendon Underwood Parish Council;
- Hoggeston Parish Council;
- Hogshaw Parish Council;
- Ludgershall Parish Council;
- Marsh Gibbon Parish Council;
- Middle Claydon Parish Council;
- Mursley Parish Council;
- North Marston Parish Council;
- Oving Parish Council;
- Padbury Parish Council;
- Poundon Parish Council;
- Preston Bissett Parish Council;
- Steeple Claydon Parish Council;
- Stewkley Parish Council;
- Stoke Hammond Parish Council;
- Swanbourne Parish Council;
- Twyford Parish Council;
- Whaddon Parish Council;
- David Goss, Winslow in Buckinghamshire Council;
- Jilly Jordan, Great Brickhill in Buckinghamshire Council;
- Michael Rand, Grendon Underwood in Buckinghamshire Council;
- Patrick Fealey, Buckingham West in Buckinghamshire Council;
- Phil Gomm, Great Brickhill in Buckinghamshire Council;
- Robin Stuchbury, Buckingham West in Buckinghamshire Council.