



August 2020 AAGP Newsletter

Dear Members,

Despite the difficulties in meeting while the virus constraints exist we have continued to have regular Zoom meetings as an executive committee and take positive actions to progress the project. Below I have laid out what we have done since our last newsletter and the direction of travel we hope to move along over the next weeks and months.

1. Progress on list of key people to be contacted directly or emailed – politicians and landowners.

- Charles Granlund from Savills has replaced Alan Granger as CEO for land management at the Ragley Estate and we have a meeting fixed with him for 11/9/2020
- Richard Boles (Forestry Commission) with a responsibility for Oversley Woods has been contacted and is discussing our proposals with his colleagues.
- Richard Barnard Warwickshire CC officer with a responsibility for footpaths has been contacted. We will be sending Richard a package of our proposals including maps with a copy to his colleague Lisa Jones who deals with cycling routes.
- Kier Group - Kier is the consultant to Highways England who are responsible for the A46 which so much of our route runs beside. Joe has been in contact and currently they regret they have no contracts in the area of our project. We will keep in touch with them as they deliver large infrastructure projects.
- We are in the process of moving towards contacting politicians from district and county organisations – see below Item 5.

2. Reports of Meeting with Beth Brook (CEO Heart of England Forest) and Jack Hegarty (former CEO Wychavon DC)

Beth Brook had been very supportive and provided a number of useful contacts after the meeting. She said that Heart of England Forest are fully supportive of the AAGP objectives and will help us wherever possible.

Jack Hegarty is also Chairman of the Avon Navigation Trust and he said that the Trust will support the AAGP in principle. He listened carefully to our presentation at the meeting and suggested ways to raise awareness of our project in political circles.

3. Proposal to include Broom to Stratford link in the project.

The AAGP were approached by representatives from the Bidford Health Centre Patient Support Group who hoped we might look at running a link from our existing route at Broom to the rear of Bidford Health Centre. This idea has the full support of the Health Centre Practice management and there are sound reasons for us to take the proposal seriously.

Background considerations

Initial investigation of land ownership and other enquiries have shown that there seems to be a reasonable prospect of a continuous route to Stratford upon Avon being possible using elements of the old railway line. This could link up with an existing shared pedestrian cycle way within Stratford Town along the old railway line, past Stratford Racecourse and link up with the Stratford Greenway.

Parishes and Communities on the route

The route passes through the following parishes: Bidford on Avon, Binton, Temple Grafton, Luddington and Stratford upon Avon. It also passes close to the parish of Welford on Avon. We will be writing to all of them to seek their engagement. The route is wholly contained within Stratford upon Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council areas.

Reasons for inclusion of the route

- The link would be an important part of the off road network being developed in the area and would link up with both the AAGP spine route and the existing Stratford Greenway
- The link would allow longer journeys to be made to between the three historic towns Alcester, Evesham and Stratford and would have serious tourist potential.
- The inclusion of the Stratford upon Avon link should increase the attraction of the AAGP to SDC and WCC.

We believe this possible extension of the ambition of our project will increase the chances of future funding for the project as a whole and will enhance our chances of delivering on the core route from Evesham to Alcester.

Your thoughts please!

4. Future plans

- We are intending to write to the two District Councils asking them to help us convene a meeting attended by District and County members. The purpose of this is to get a firm place on their respective agendas and pursue national government funding now available for cycling and walking.
- We will also be contacting the local MPS Nigel Huddleston and Nadhim Zahawi in due course order to set up meetings to engage their support.

5. Constitution, Bank account and Charity documents.

In order to reflect the change of name from CPCPP to AAGP we have made all the necessary alterations to update the documents above.

6. Should we develop an AAGP Website?

We have achieved a lot over the last 18 months or so and have an exciting story to tell - perhaps a website could help people to find out about us and provide the AAGP with wider audience. We already have a significant amount of content and could design more web friendly materials.

What do you think and if we decided to go ahead do any of you have the skills and time to support its development?

7. Land Ownership Progress.

Daryl is in the process of registering AAGP with the Land Registry so that we could find details of land ownership more economically than by other methods.

8. Possibility of convening a General Meeting in September.

The thought is to organise a meeting in the main room at Broom Village Hall which is large enough to safely accommodate up to 22 people including officers. It has Wi Fi availability so those who did not want to attend in person could join us electronically. I have provisionally booked Tuesday September 22nd 7.00 – 8.30pm as suitable spaces are getting very difficult to find. All present would need to wear face masks and book their place in advance. If numbers warrant it we will send out further information for firm bookings, if not we will continue for the moment with regular newsletters.

Please let us know if you think this is a good idea and would be interested in attending assuming we take all appropriate measures to maximise safety.

9. Next Zoom meeting date for the Executive Committee.

16th September at 6:00pm

With best wishes from the Executive Committee

Joe Harvey: Chair

Liam Maude: Vice Chair and Warwickshire Representative

Jill Smith: Worcestershire Representative

Hon. Secretary: Colin Tether

Hon. Treasurer: Daryl Bailey

31st August 2020

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