



Two Shires Greenway Project AGM

Wednesday 24th January 2024 at 7.30pm

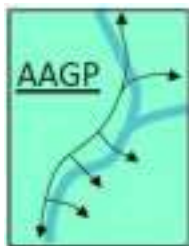
Salford Priors Memorial Hall, School Rd, Salford Priors, WR11 8XD

Agenda

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Apologies
3. Approval of the minutes and any matters arising from the last AGM dated 26th October 2022.
4. Chair's report
5. Treasurer's report.
6. Election of Chairman for forthcoming year
7. Election of Officers for the forthcoming year
8. Progress: Evesham to Alcester
Wychavon and Harvington
Salford Priors to Alcester
9. Progress: Broom to Stratford
10. Funding and Business Plan
11. Any other business

Attendance by Zoom: The meeting will be linked via Zoom so that people can attend remotely. The Zoom link will be sent out in the week before the meeting.

Jill Smith, Hon. Secretary to the TSG 16th January 2024



Avon and Arrow Greenway Project

Annual General Meeting Minutes

7:00pm, Wednesday 26th October 2022

Salford Priors Memorial Hall
School Road, Salford Priors, WR11 8XD

Present:

Joe Harvey - Chair AAGP
Jill Smith - Hon sec AAGP
Daryl Bailey - Treasurer AAGP
Colin Tether - AAGP Exec (Zoom)
Liam Maude - AAGP Exec (Zoom)
Graeme Reeves - AAGP Exec
Stuart Keighley - Luddington Parish Council
Andy Hibbitt – Luddington Parish Council
Robin Walker – Cycle Evesham Vale
Erick Wilson - Alcester Town Council
John James - Bidford Health Centre Patient Participation Group
Robert Hale - Evesham Town Council
Justin Kerridge – Warwickshire CC
P Smith
Alan Saunders - Evesham Rambling Club
Mark Funnell - Norton and Lenchwick Parish Council
Jack Fryer - Wixford Parish Council (Zoom)
Ian Graham - Offenham Parish Council (Zoom)
Susan Juned – Stratford DC(Zoom)

Item 1 Apologies:

Thomas Shaw – AAGP Exec
Martin Philpott – Sustrans
Julie Tucker – Evesham Town Council
John Langley - Harvington Parish Council
Mike Flaxman - Binton Parish Council and Bidford Health Centre
Karen Lewing - Active Travel Officer, Wychavon District Council
Stephen Rumble – Warwickshire County Council
Charles Granlund – Ragley Estate
Tracey Perkins – Wychavon District Council
Manuela Perteghuella – Stratford District Council

Election of Chair – Joe Harvey was proposed by Liam Maude and seconded by Jack Fryer. Elected unanimously. The other officers were elected as follows

Jill Smith – Hon Secretary
Liam Maude – Vice Chair
Daryl Bailey – Treasurer
Colin Tether
Graeme Reeves
Tom Shaw

Item 2 Introduction and Chairman's Report – Joe Harvey

Joe welcomed everyone present in the Hall and on Zoom to the meeting. He offered a big thank you to the executive members of the AAGP for all their hard work during a busy and challenging year and to all those present who had continued to support the work of the AAGP so energetically.

He noted that despite some setbacks real progress had been made and the prospects for the next 12 months were looking bright. He then made the following observations.

'The agenda today gives me the opportunity now to look at some of the headlines, the detail of which we can examine later.

1. We have had increasingly helpful engagement with both officers and councillors at Worcestershire and Warwickshire County Councils for which I am gratefully to them.
2. We have seen a potentially significant breakthrough in the ability to create greenway and bridleway delivery through direct collaboration between parish councils and landowners.
3. We can look towards the opening up of some sections of our spine routes with some confidence during the course of 2023.
4. The Feasibility Study (FS) by Sustrans of the Broom to Stratford route is nearly finished and will hugely focus and energise our efforts on the work to take that route forward next year.
5. We now know that Warwickshire County Council are engaged with the delivery very soon of an FS for a new greenway route from Alcester to Redditch which will link to and extend our existing route significantly. We are of course very excited to hear this and will support the work in any way we can.

Item 3 Progress: Evesham to Alcester

Wychavon and Harvington updates – Jill Smith

Harvington PC with the AAGP and Norton & Lenchwick PC applied for a Community Legacy Grant. This process involved a six-week consultation with the community. The online survey elicited an overwhelming response and 98% of those that responded were in favour of the cycle path. (Survey report can be found at <https://www.harvington-pc.org.uk/aagp/SurveyReport.pdf>). We were successful and were awarded £150K. Harvington PC have now set up a working group to oversee this section of the route. We have met with officers from Wychavon and have walked them along the route to show what is proposed. Karen Lewing the active travel officer is leaving Wychavon at the beginning of November and has passed on contact details which we are pursuing. The AAGP are now in contact with Worcestershire CC. We are looking at making legal agreements with the 3 landowners along this part of the route, namely National Highways (previously named Highways England), Worcestershire CC and Eagle One (The Valley). The Harvington Working Group are meeting with Phillip Goddard for a site visit on the WCC land that is soon to be planted with trees. This gives us a unique opportunity to establish the cycle track and initiate legal procedures for new Right of Way (ROW).

Question raised about where the Community Legacy Grant money was from. It was established that this was New Homes Bonus money used by Wychavon DC for capital projects.

Salford Priors to Alcester progress – Liam Maude

Salford Priors Parish Council Leisure Trails working group are working on this part of the route. It has been established that under section 30 of the highways act if landowners are co-operative it is a straightforward process to move or create new ROW. This section does have 4 landowners who are supportive namely the National Highways, Alamo, The Pollaci family and Ragley Estate. Piers Daniell (Warwickshire CC) is currently working on delivering a system of priority traffic access across the bridge at Wixford (similar to the situation at Welford Bridge) which will enable separate and safe pedestrian and cycle access. This will allow our route to Alcester to run from Wixford to the Three Horseshoes Pub along the lane to Exhall, up the bridleway into Oversley Woods, along their internal road and out the other side to cross the A46 at the bridge which leads down into Oversley Green and Alcester Town. This route does use sections of public road and we will continue to work on a more direct route based on the old railway line. Meanwhile much work has gone on with Alcester TC to link routes with the town and the walking/cycling opportunities there.

Question raised about how much of the old railway route was still in existence from Alcester to Redditch.

Councillor Justin Kerridge explained the route from Alcester to Studley. There were mainly 3 options – River which was prone to flooding, Road which would incur high costs and finally the preferred option of the old railway line. He explained that much of this was still in existence especially around the Coughton area into Alcester. Justin also expressed the idea of joining this route out of Alcester to the AAGP route coming into Alcester. This would potentially link up Evesham, Stratford Upon Avon and Redditch. Electric bike usage is on the increase and with the extended range of these it means our rural routes are a means of linking up urban routes.

Item 4 – Broom to Stratford progress

Warwickshire Draft Infrastructure Plan.

Joe noted that this is an exciting opportunity for the AAGP to gain increased visibility and credibility with the County but because the scoring system is based on Department of Transport criteria which strongly favour urban settings, our marks were disappointing. We have responded to the county with a detailed review of the marking system emphasising that such a bias towards urban walking and cycling is completely inappropriate for rural counties such as Warwickshire (and Worcestershire). It may be that it works for major cities but the imperative in our region is for towns, villages and parishes to be linked with an infrastructure of routes allowing short/medium and long journeys whether business or pleasure, to be available. If projects like ours which fully meet the needs of these localities are to be prioritised it requires an overlay of the Dept. Of Transport criteria with county criteria relevant to delivering local objectives and appropriate amenities. We are working

very hard with our county Cllrs and officers to achieve this and feel we are receiving a very sympathetic hearing.

Success in this debate is vital as it will significantly affect our ability to attract regional and government funding in the future.

The Feasibility Study by Sustrans

We are hoping that this is to be completed by Martin Philpott and his team and as soon as it is finished it will be distributed.

Work with the Bidford Health Centre

As yet there has been no formal planning application by Oculus the developers of the Bidford Health Centre and we will be following up the news on the development of the project at the Health Centre urgently.

Partnership with parishes.

Joe reiterated to the meeting that the whole structure of the AAGP is based on engagement with the parishes along the route. With their support the opportunity to deliver new permanent amenities to their parishioners both within and outside their boundaries is possible.

AOB

Questions and comments from the floor.

Point was raised about the development at The Valley to put in cabins this Autumn. Would it be possible to make it a condition of planning that these could not open until a link to The Valley from Evesham is established?

Discussion took place about linking Common Road to Evesham Town Centre. It was noted that the AAGP are happy to get involved in looking at the route.

Item 5 – Funding

The AAGP are looking to find matched funding for both the Harvington PC Working Group (who need to find match funding for the 150K) and the Salford Priors PC. (matched funding for £110k). Ideas or information regarding potential funding organisations would be welcomed.

Business Plan

The business plan is currently being worked on by Graeme Reeves and others to enable us to go for funding. We hope to have this finished early in the new year.

Mapping

The AAGP are aware that better mapping is needed for the Broom to Stratford section and this need is being addressed.

Question raised about the total cost of the route. Initially in the FS the cost was £5 - £8.5 million has this been updated? Joe explained that to look at the overall cost was not helpful in terms of securing a place on council plans. It was much better to approach costs in a section by section method. Costs will inevitably increase but by the above approach offers us greater credibility.

Item 6 New Name for the AAGP

We are hoping to promote the work of the AAGP using the services of Ollie Gallant. He has explained that the title 'AAGP' does not immediately explain what we are trying to achieve. He has suggested a new name that directly reflects our aims. The names put forward so far are:

The Shires Way

The Two Shires Way (on foot or by bike)

The Mercia Way – This has been rejected as there is already one in existence.

The West Shakespeare Way

The Avon Vale Way

The Shires Cycleway – It was felt that the term 'Greenway' was more inclusive.

The meeting appeared to like either 'The Shires Way' or 'The Two Shires Way' decision to be taken soon.

If you have any other suggestions, please let us know.

Item 7 A.O.B

Andy Hibbit suggested that the AAGP could use compulsory purchase with difficult land owners similar to the way the National Grid had and asked if Wychavon had considered this option. It was explained that the AAGP preferred to work in a more co-operative way and that although compulsory purchase was an option it was often very costly and likely to create tension between us and landowners which was unhelpful. Councils are under huge financial pressures so this was not a viable option at this time.

Jack Fryer asked what was holding up the progress of the Salford Priors to Wixford route especially as now legal agreements can be made easily without the need to involve the county council. Liam replied that Salford Priors PC have now passed a resolution to fund this legal process.

Meeting ended 8.15pm with thanks from the Chair to all those present.

Gillian Smith
Hon. Secretary

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity number: 1188324**

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Trustees

Jeremy Harvey	Chair
Liam Maude	Vice Chair
Colin Tether	Trustee
Daryl Bailey	Treasurer

Principal Office

44 Dunnington
ALCESTER
B49 5NX

Registered CIO Number 1188324

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS – 31 MARCH 2023

Pages

3. Report of the Trustees
4. Report of the Chair of the Trustees
7. Financial Report for the period

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees present their annual report and the unaudited accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”) for the period ended 31 March 2023.

The organisation became a registered CIO on 4 March 2020.

Charitable Objects

The objects of the CIO are to promote and encourage in the Avon and Arrow river valleys in Warwickshire and Worcestershire for the public benefit the development and provision of safe routes, paths and facilities for cyclists, walkers and persons with disabilities and to undertake such projects and activities of a charitable nature which will assist in promoting health, wellbeing and the protection of the environment.

Activities

Activities include the promotion of cycling and walking environments and infrastructure within the valleys of the rivers Avon and Arrow in Worcestershire and Warwickshire to support the creation of traffic free leisure paths linking rural communities to the principal towns in the area. The paths will support health and wellbeing, local tourism and responsible cycling for all ages and abilities.

Trustees

The trustees of the CIO who served during the period were:

D Bailey	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
J Harvey	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
L Maude	(appointed 4 th March 2020)
C Tether	(appointed 4 th March 2020)

Acknowledgements

The trustees acknowledge the ongoing support received from its stakeholders and Sustrans during the period.

Signed by order of the board of trustees

J Harvey
Chair

Approved by the board 12th January 2024

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

Our spine routes engage two rural counties; our greenway links them in a potentially mighty partnership to create a new network for walking and cycling. It's a strategic partnership that is both exciting and powerful and offers us a route to government funding through Active Travel and the Dept for Transport. Constructing this relationship completes our engagement through all levels of politics, parish, district, county and government and is vital in attracting the money necessary for Two Shires Greenway vision to become a reality - more of this below!

A brief overview of the both routes –

Evesham to Alcester is Spine 1 and Broom to Stratford is Spine 2. The section from Salford Priors church to Wixford and onto Alcester is underway with CIL funding from Salford Priors PC and Stratford District Council to the tune of £500,000 and we expect work to commence very early 2024

We have CIL money for the section through Harvington The three landowners along this part of the route are National Highways (contact Fiona McKenzie), Worcester CC (contact Tina Mclaughlin and Phil Goddard), and the Valley land owned by Eagle one (contact Phil Maclean marketing director). Harvington PC have been awarded 150K community legacy grant money. We are waiting on National Highways and WCC to process the legal side so we can go for match funding. This would effectively give us 300K for this section.

The parish council has set up a working group to progress this. The Valley owners are very supportive of the project as a whole and specifically the link to Evesham Town.

On Spine 2 We have a pincer movement strategy in place for this route as the central section offers the greatest challenge. So we are working on the route from Broom to the Bidford Health Centre with Bidford PC and we have bid for £250k of Stratford DC CIL money for this section in this year's CIL grants – we are hoping to hear good news in the next week or so!

In partnership with this we are also in the planning stage with Luddington and Welford Parish Councils, on the route from the Stratford racecourse to Welford. (we intend to bid for CIL funds for this section in 2024.) In effect we are coming at it from both ends inwards, Broom to Stratford and from Stratford to Welford. Delivering these sections will leverage extra funding to do the difficult job of joining them up. Once done we then have immediate access to the Tramway to Long Marston

Long term strategy requires county joint action with government.

We are engaged with Councillor Mike Rouse (Worcs CC), who has responsibility for Highways and Transport, and Cllr Justin Kerridge (Warks CC) to achieve cross county support for the project as a whole. The difficult sections of the Greenway project will require serious funding (many millions) from Active Travel and the DFT to complete. Our concern is

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

that Active Travel is currently focused primarily on urban development which is unhelpful for rural counties like Worcestershire and Warwickshire where connectivity is key.

So the aim is to lobby DFT and Active Travel for funding for routes offering 'connectivity' rather than just the present urban focus. Ideally both district councils, Wychavon and Stratford would work to ensure their county council's engagement with the cross county strategic partnership. Tim Snazell (Warks CC) is setting up a meeting with Councillors Rouse and Kerridge and county officers and we will seek to engage DC leaders in any future meetings.

We also believe that Directors of Public Health should have a powerful voice in supporting the Greenway and we are asking DC leadership to set up a meeting so we could enlist their support for this project to promote health and wellbeing - they are Dr Shade Agboola Warks. CC and Lisa McNeil Worcs CC.

So Evesham to Harvington

We know that the original work started over 5 years ago to deliver this route has stalled badly for a number of reasons, however this is the perfect time to resurrect the work as things have changed and we can work with those changes.

We hope to set up a joint meeting between the two District Council leaders - Sue Juned and Chris Day to encourage cross district council co-operation and pushing for the engagement of District Council County Cllrs to join in the creation of a pressure group with the two county councils to lobby government.

Jill Smith and I met with Heather Peachy (Wychavon DC) on 10th October. She confirmed to us that several years ago money was given by Eagle One specifically for the route from Evesham to the Valley. This is tied by a legal agreement and cannot be used for other purposes. The amount was £108,971.09 and can be used as matched funding.

Jill and I also met with Phil Maclean Marketing Director Eagle One on 28th September. They are very keen to see this route in place and Phil talked with great enthusiasm about the commercial and tourist benefits for Evesham. He offered to help us sharpen up the executive summary of our business plan.

Phil Goddard (WCC) has outlined a plan to create a PROW across the New Farm nature reserve (WCC land between the accommodation bridge and the Valley land). This can later be upgraded to a bridleway. Eagle One have agreed to this being linked into their land.

We were invited to update the Evesham TC planning committee on progress on November 20th and spent a very positive hour briefing them and asking for their active support in pursuing the route and lobbying Wychavon DC

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

We now would be delighted if you could use your influence to push for progress on your section of this unique infrastructure project which will bring significant benefits and offer a huge opportunity to develop a network of walking/cycling paths for the whole of South Warwickshire and Worcestershire. This amazing amenity will connect all the footpaths and bridleways and routes off the Greenway to other villages and places of beauty and interest

along the way. We hope that you continue to see the huge benefits of actively supporting this agenda and investing time and political capital as well as cash in its development.

J Harvey
Chair

THE AVON AND ARROW GREENWAY PROJECT
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Income:		
Donation from Bidford on Avon Parish Council	-	3,000.00
	-	3,000.00
Expenses:		
Hire of Village Hall	-	(45.00)
Website costs	(309.98)	(164.75)
Professional Indemity Insurance	(244.00)	(244.00)
HM Land registry fees	(45.00)	(156.00)
Publicity costs	-	(71.89)
Ordnance Survey licence costs	-	(80.99)
Meeting costs	(101.00)	(54.50)
Total income less expenditure	<u>(699.98)</u>	<u>2,182.87</u>
Balance sheet:		
Cash at bank	7,506.91	8,105.89
Accrual - meeting costs	(101.00)	-
	<u>7,405.91</u>	<u>8,105.89</u>
Reserves b/fwd	8,105.89	5,923.02
Income less expenditure in year	(699.98)	2,182.87
Reserves c/fwd	<u>7,405.91</u>	<u>8,105.89</u>

Accounts prepared by D Bailey, Treasurer



TSG Newsletter

December 2023

TWO SHIRES GREENWAY

We hope you have noticed that the AAGP logo is not at the top of this newsletter! After some consideration we decided that we needed a name that better described our project, its ambition and its aims. Our spine routes engage two rural counties; our greenway links them in a potentially mighty partnership to create a new network for walking and cycling. It's a strategic partnership that is both exciting and powerful and offers us a route to government funding through Active Travel and the Department for Transport. Constructing this relationship completes our engagement through all levels of politics, parish, district, county and government and is vital in attracting the money necessary for Two Shires Greenway vision to become a reality - more of this below!

Long term strategy requires county joint action with government.

We are engaged with Councillor Mike Rouse (Worcs CC), Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, and Cllr Justin Kerridge (Warks CC) to achieve cross county support for the project as a whole. The difficult sections of the Greenway project will require serious funding (many millions) from Active Travel and the DfT to complete. Our concern is that Active Travel is currently focused primarily on urban development which is unhelpful to rural counties like Worcestershire and Warwickshire where connectivity is key.

So the aim is to lobby DfT and Active Travel for funding for routes offering 'connectivity' rather than just the present urban focus. Ideally both district councils, Wychavon and Stratford would work to ensure their county council's engagement with the cross county strategic partnership.

TSC Summit Meeting

Tim Snazell (Warks CC) is setting up a meeting with Councillors Rouse and Kerridge and county officers and we will seek to engage District Council leaders in any future meetings.

We also believe that Directors of Public Health should have a powerful voice in supporting the Greenway and we are asking District Council leadership to set up a meeting so we could enlist their support for this project to promote health and wellbeing - they are Dr Shade Agboola, Warks CC and Lisa McNeil, Worcs CC.

We hope to set up a joint meeting between the two District Council leaders - Sue Juned and Chris Day to encourage cross district council co-operation and pushing for the engagement of District Council Cllrs to join in the creation of a pressure group with the two county councils to lobby government.



Two Shires Greenway: Annual General Meeting, 24th January 2024

We are now due to hold our AGM for the year 2023/4 where we hope we can welcome you all to a full update of the project with much more detail and a chance to discuss the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It will be held in the Salford Priors Memorial Hall and the date will be Wednesday January 24th 2024 at 7.15pm. We will send you a reminder and an agenda after Christmas along with a Zoom link for those of you unable to attend in person. **Please note the date in your diary!**

A brief overview of the both TSG routes

Spine Route 1 from Alcester to Evesham is around 18 kilometres long, 11 kilometres within Warwickshire and 7 kilometres within Worcestershire. Spine Route 2 from Broom to Stratford is over 12 kilometres long and all within Warwickshire. The future route of Spine Route 2 is less certain, partly because much of the old railway line has been lost through road improvements, new housing and sections across fields have been ploughed up.



Spine Route 1: Alcester to Wixford

There is already a route which can be used between Alcester and Wixford. Starting on quiet roads on the outskirts of Alcester it crosses the A46 by a footbridge and runs along a bridleway, through Oversley Woods owned by Forestry England, along another bridleway to join the quiet public road through Exhall village to Wixford, to continue towards Broom over Wixford Bridge. We are pleased to see the scheme recently installed at Wixford bridge to slow traffic down and give some space to pedestrians.



Another route—Alcester to Wixford?

We are continuing to investigate the possibilities of a more direct route from Alcester towards Wixford, partly based on the old railway line. This could end close to the Alcester Town Centre using the splendid section of old railway line pictured and easily seen from the Evesham Street railway bridge.

Alcester is also important because last year Sustrans did an options study for Warwickshire connecting Alcester with Studley into Redditch. One option considered is to follow the old railway line.

Spine Route 1: Wixford to Salford Priors

The section from Wixford to Salford Priors, wholly within the Salford Priors Parish Council area is underway with CIL funding from Salford Priors PC and Stratford District Council to the tune of £500,000. Prior to agreement to go ahead, TSG organised an ecology study which showed that there were no major concerns. Works are under the control of the Parish Council and we expect work to clear undergrowth along the old railway line to commence very early 2024. Also included will be the replacement of the steps with ramps either side of Bomford Way in Salford Priors.

We are fortunate that the land owners along this section of the route have been most co-operative. We think that once this section is improved it will help to show that real change is possible, making further work a little bit easier.

The works to be carried out shortly will not help the two elderly gentlemen pictured on the right who are wondering how to cross the puddle, close to the old signal box you see on the A46. But in general the route is in good order and the work planned close to Wixford will further improve it.



Spine Route 1: Harvington to The Valley

We have CIL money for the section through Harvington. The three landowners along this part of the route are National Highways (contact Fiona McKenzie), Worcester CC (contacts Tina McLaughlin and Phil Goddard), and the Valley land owned by Eagle One Ltd. (contact Phil Maclean marketing director). Harvington PC have been awarded £150K community legacy grant money. We are waiting on National Highways and WCC to process the legal side so we can go for match funding. This would effectively give us £300K for this section.

The parish council has set up a working group to progress this. The Valley owners are very supportive of the project as a whole and specifically look forward to the link towards Evesham Town.

Phil Goddard (WCC) has outlined a plan to create a public right of way across the New Farm nature reserve (WCC land between the accommodation bridge over the A46 and the Valley land). This can later be upgraded to a bridleway. Eagle One have agreed to this being linked into their land.

Spine Route 1: The Valley to Evesham

We know that the original work started over 5 years ago to deliver this route has stalled badly for a number of reasons, however this is the perfect time to resurrect the work as things have changed and we can work with those changes.

Jill and Joe met with Phil Maclean, Marketing Director of Eagle One Ltd. on 28th September. Eagle One are very keen to see this route in place and Phil talked with great enthusiasm about the commercial and tourist benefits for Evesham. He also offered to help us sharpen up the executive summary of our business plan.

Jill and Joe met with Heather Peachy (Wychavon DC) on 10th October. She confirmed to us that several years ago money was given by Eagle One specifically for the route from Evesham to the Valley. This is tied by a legal agreement and cannot be used for other purposes. The amount is over £100,000 and can be used as matched funding. There has subsequently been a land survey to establish the best route.

We understand there is a particular problem with agreeing the route close to where the route crosses under the A46. We have not been involved up to now but we feel in view of the lack of progress, our involvement may be beneficial.

Spine Route 2: Broom to Bidford

On Spine Route 2 we plan a pincer movement strategy for the route as the central section offers the greatest challenge. So, at the western end we are working on the route from Broom to the Bidford Health Centre with Bidford PC and we have bid for £250k of Stratford DC CIL money for this section in this year's CIL grants – we are hoping to hear good news in the next week or so!

Pictured is the Grafton Lane bridge over the old railway line between Bidford and the Health Centre. This could become an active travel route.



Spine Route 2: Welford to Luddington

This is the eastern side of the pincer movement strategy. We are in the planning stage with Luddington and Welford Parish Councils, on the route from the Stratford racecourse to Welford and we intend to bid for CIL funds for this section in 2024. Delivering both sections will leverage extra funding to do the difficult job of joining them up. Once done we then have immediate access to the existing and very popular Stratford Greenway leading to Long Marston

Getting the TSG message across

On 20th November Joe addressed the Town Plan Committee of Evesham Town Council and answered questions. We are happy to meet other Town and Parish Councils and indeed other organisations to tell them all about the TSG.

The TSG Organisation

Joe Harvey:—Chair

Liam Maude: —Vice Chair and Salford Priors Parish Council

Daryl Bailey: —Treasurer

Jill Smith: —Secretary and Harvington Parish Council.

Graeme Reeves:- Business Plan and Economic Research

Tom Shaw: - Special representative for Alcester

Colin Tether:- Stepped back since move to London, but assisting with mapping and Newsletter

Over to you!

We now would be delighted if you could use your influence to push for progress on your section of this unique infrastructure project which will bring significant benefits and offer a huge opportunity to develop a network of walking/cycling paths for the whole of South Warwickshire and Worcestershire. This amazing amenity will connect all the footpaths and bridleways and routes off the Greenway to other villages and places of beauty and interest along the way. We hope that you continue to see the huge benefits of actively supporting this agenda and investing time and political capital as well as cash in its development.

Have a very happy and restful Christmas. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM in the New Year.

Joe Harvey (Chair) Two Shires Greenway, 12th December 2023.