

A417 MISSING LINK STEERING GROUP

Summary: To review the progress of the A417 Missing Link Steering Group

Recommendation: That the Executive Committee notes the report

Report by: Andy Parsons, Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTED ON THE GROUP

- Graham Hopkins
- Sue Crawford

MEETINGS SINCE THE LAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Steering Group hasn't met since the May Executive Committee meeting.
2. Other meetings in the period:
 - 14 June, 7 September – Barrow Wake Parking and Access Working Group
 - 20 June, 6 July, 18 July, 28 July – Designated Funds 'Biodiversity Net Gain' (BNG)
 - 15 July – Strategic Stakeholder Panel meeting
 - 28 July – Collaboration Session (led by Kier) on Structures and Design
 - 3 August – Designated Funds workshop, with National Highways and National Trust
 - 31 August – walk and talk with Roger Mortlock (CEO, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust) and Nick Droy (Assistant Director, National Trust) to discuss a potential Designated Funds partnership project
 - 31 August – met with Kier (main contractor) to discuss the dry stone walling commitments within the red line boundary of the road scheme (10km), giving consideration to resources (people and stone) and CNL involvement

OTHER ACTIVITY

3. The Planning Inspectorate submitted their recommendation for the scheme to the Secretary of State, who will make a decision in November 2022.
4. A series of collaborative sessions with National Highways, Kier (main contractor) and environmental partners have started and will continue over the next few months. The sessions will focus on the detailed design of various aspects of the road scheme.
5. Designated Fund projects that we are currently involved:
 - *Dry stone wall grant scheme* (lead: James Webb)
 - Estimated funding requirement: £553,000
 - Following the completion of the Feasibility report, funding is currently being sought for the Design and Implementation phases
 - *Landscapes for Everyone* - three new disability trails at Coopers Hill, Stinchcombe and Lansdown (lead: Rebecca Jones)
 - Estimated funding requirement: £147,000
 - Awaiting decision to start Feasibility from National Highways' Investment Decision Committee (IDC)
 - *Dark Skies* - to support the conservation and enhancement of dark skies (lead: Mandy Pressland)
 - Estimated funding requirement: unknown at this stage

- Awarded £24,800 Feasibility funding, which will run until January 2023, at which point we will have a better idea of the scope (and costings) of the full project
- *Biodiversity Net Gain* – grasslands restoration/creation and ongoing maintenance (lead: Simon Smith)
 - Estimated funding requirement: £7.7m (£2.1m for CNL / £5.6m for National Trust)
 - Application submitted and awaiting IDC decision
 - National Trust are scheduled to start in 2022 and CNL in 2023

DECISIONS REQUIRED

- 6. None

NEXT STEPS

- 7. To continue being involved in the Designated Funds programme and proposals.

SUPPORTING PAPERS

- None

SEPTEMBER 2022