

Mereway Project: Fish Pass Meeting Minutes

10:00, Tuesday 13th August 2019

Terrace Room, York House, Twickenham, TW1 3NH

Attending: Natasha Gibbs (EA), Luis Rico (EA), Dak Gor (EA), Craig Ruddick (Richmond), Tony Brimelow (GBV) John Waxman (Crane Valley Partnership), David Johnson (EA Fisheries), Phil Belfield (EA Fisheries), Joe Pecorelli (Friends of the River Crane), Matt Almond (Richmond).

Apologies: Frances Bennett (Chair of Friends of Kneller Gardens), Yvonne Kelleher (Richmond), Rob Gray (Chair of Friends of River Crane), Tasha Hunter (Richmond),

Agenda Item Minutes	Action
1 Introductions	
2 Overview of Mereway Weir Replacement Background Information on the need for project. CR asked what the impact on the tress will be for the area south bank of the weir replacement where the crane will supposedly go. TB – One of the trees may need to be removed to allow access without detriment to CR asked if the tree survey be shared. Action – Send through both tree surveys to CR, YK and TH and MA. TB asked that any feedback from CR around the replanting and vision for end product be explored and shared. CR – The trees (on highway verge) is considered a highway asset and may have a monetary value attached to the removal. Contractor to contact Richmond Highways team.	GBV [Complete] GBV/Jackson
3 Fish Pass Planning permission NG explained that the planning permission has been submitted but if there is anything to include that would be helpful, please let us know. CR – The arboricultural impact assessment would be useful to attach as well. GBV stated that this is also being updated.	
4 Ground Investigations update GBV – The level of the GW has been recorded and compared to what winter levels may be, so that any construction will be planned to include this. Soils that have been found are a collection of made ground and some contaminants have been found within them (car parts etc). At the areas of lower depth the GW will be contained by reinforced mesh as construction occurs and as well as in the fish pass on the channel. This will hold the soil. Erosion protection will be tested before implementation. Discussion around what type of mesh to be used, as it may not contain the soil structure and could wash away. Flows will be maintained in the channel so the Crane will receive water. Main report for the Ground Investigations is being finalised and will be published and shared with the group when available.	
5 Updated fish pass designs TB described the original options explored and why the main option of full natural looking fish pass for length of the Nature Reserve wasn't able to go ahead. (Due to perched GW and value of brush that would be impacted). A final location was confirmed and agreed in the March site visit meeting and has been explored through designs. The current design incorporates fisheries comments and ecologist concerns around tree screens towards the south where the technical fish pass enters the River Crane. (Please see updated design attached in minutes email, ref: Mereway Fish Pass Design with trees Aug2019)	

	<p>- Comments from group</p> <p>JP – asked if the larinier (technical) part of the fish pass would be steel, TB confirmed this.</p> <p>TB raised the area into the larinier fish pass and access to this as it would be open to the public. Any suggestions around this are encouraged.</p> <p>This would be a focal point of interest to the public due to the changes happening and may want to incorporate a visual educational aspect to the design.</p> <p>ACTION – EA and GBV to liaise around larinier fish pass.</p> <p>Discussion around including a footpath over the headwalls of the start of the larinier fish pass alongside brush planting around the edge.</p> <p>MA – it may take time for this to be established though after planting.</p> <p>GBV – we have looked at modelling for the design gradients for the fish pass and have established that a 1in400 is sufficient.</p> <p>ACTION – Outcomes to be shared with PB</p> <p>North part of the natural looking fish pass does not include a control structure but is a flat input from the invert level from the DNR, dropping gently to the start of the technical fish pass.</p> <p>GBV are currently checking the impact of flooding downstream with the added flows into the fish pass.</p> <p>CR – Raised that it would be useful to check that the ecological assessment and the traffic management plan interlink, so that turning points do not clip trees etc.</p>	<p>EA and GBV</p> <p>GBV</p>
6	<p>Works required and timings</p> <p>Spoil of earth being excavated was discussed by the group, as the spoil could potential be reused.</p> <p>TB stated that as there is a lot of made ground in depths up to 1m it may be hard to separate the top soil from the made.</p> <p>Potential for 1000m3 + of compacted soil from estimate calculations around the table.</p> <p>ACTION – notify Jacksons around waste management inclusions of spoil.</p> <p>Potential for discussions around redistribution of top soil.</p>	EA and GBV
7	<p>Environmental considerations</p> <p>Tree survey discussion – Around 5/6 trees may have to be removed and design of the fish pass is being looked at to protect an oak tree. TB – these can all be strategically replaced as well.</p> <p>CR – I will have to go to site to inform decision making around this to check maturity and impact etc.</p> <p>JP – This will need to be communicated to FORCE members and public around loss of trees.</p> <p>When GBV send through the tree survey they will include the potential amendments and detail around loss of trees.</p> <p>Discussion around the loss of brush – how is it incorporated into re planting etc. There would be a gain in new habitat and potential to influence water voles to the area as well.</p> <p>ACTION – Update Tasha Hunter and EA FBG around the potential marginal planting and landscaping of the fish pass area once available.</p> <p>JP – Impact of the works would be useful to convey to public as well. DG also raised around the impact to the access routes.</p> <p>All agreed that the main road through the centre (Austin Road) should remain open. A new path may need to be incorporated from Austin Road onto the pathway under the railway as this is a new interconnected link from the RFU for the stadium. Specific signposting will be required.</p> <p>ACTION – EA Contractors to include suitable signage so interconnected pathways are included.</p> <p>Discussion about the membrane and the need for erosion protection in the channel and bank side.</p>	<p>EA and GBV</p> <p>EA, GBV and Jacksons</p>
8	<p>Landscaping</p> <p>Included in discussion above.</p>	
9	<p>Land agreement and maintenance</p> <p>Ongoing discussion with Richmond around maintenance and what land agreement sits with this.</p>	

10	<p>Engagement</p> <p>Information to be shared with FORCE and updated on the Mereway Project webpage. The drop-in date for the public was discussed, specifically the date. There was concern that the weir replacement would overshadow the fish pass. Date confirmed as Tuesday 3rd September 2019, as it would give at least a month before potential works may start.</p> <p>Leaflets to be distributed soon following comments from stakeholder group.</p> <p>Residents would need to be kept informed around potential car parking closures as well.</p> <p>JW suggested creating an interpreted imaging to convey what is available once works are complete. JP suggested using examples from real life (matured fish pass). Include on the ongoing works fencing of interpretative vision post works.</p> <p>ACTION – Further discussion around vision boards (what it will look like, what type of fish etc) for use on fencing during works.</p> <p>Discussion around naming – could the public name the channel itself? As well as an opening day.</p>	EA, GBV and Jacksons
11	<p>Future meetings and updates</p> <p>Further email updates will be distributed with new information.</p> <p>ACTION - A further meeting to be arranged before the works are due to begin.</p>	NG
12	<p>AOB</p> <p>Send webpage link to John and Joe to make sure there is a link of promotion of project etc.</p>	NG