

Manchester and East Midlands Rail Action Partnership (MEMRAP)

Cheshire Cheese, Buxton – 2nd September, 7.15pm,

Meeting No.8

Attendees: Robin Greenwood, Stephen Chaytow, John Harpur, Janet Miller, Jane Taylor, Tina Heathcote, Derek Bodey, Mike Rose, Jean Todd, Peter Stanton

Apologies: Mike Hancocks, Kirk Martin

1) Minutes from Meeting No.7 on 29th July 2019

Agreed and confirmed as a fair record.

2) Actions Arising from the Strategy Day

- **Strategy Day Minutes:** JM's 2 pages exec summary prepared and to be circulated to attendees for comment. Agreed that the full strategy day papers would be available internally as a MEMRAP working document.
- **MEMRAP Consortium:** Discussed, agreed that timing was now right for RG to write to Ian Brown (Railfuture), requesting input, recognising that he is busy, but thought that a consortium team could be assembled
- **Feasibility & Peak Consortium:** MEMRAP to continue to prepare for the feasibility, but seek to formally engage with the consortium as a whole, not only Peak Rail (also thought to include Cemex, Breedon, Tarmac, MDS). A formal meeting would be sought to present the MEMRAP case, for inclusion.
- **Tarmac:** SC's exchange with Chris Swan, confirmed consortium meetings in Westminster in September, comments about future proofing in return for support and MEMRAP leadership on the Monsal Trail relocation
- **Private Finance:** SC has had preliminary contacts, but until the £30k study is complete, no basis for discussion yet, however, Rhomberg-Sersa are also assisting from a construction perspective
- **Transport and Works Act Order:** After discussions, it was agreed that exact details of requirements needed to be included in the order (i.e. freight / heritage / single or double track etc). Consortium has been in 2 years of negotiation with Network Rail to get this far.

3) Reports from Recent Meetings, Also Proposed Meetings for the near future

- 1/8 RG, JM, joined by SC continued to survey routes for the replacement Monsal Trail, from Millers Dale to Monsal Head, options in the river valley, needing boardwalks or the higher cliff tops above the tunnels. Engineering would vary but it would likely exceed Scott Wilson estimates. Difficulty over SSSI sites in Cheedale
- 1/8 Met with Blackwell Mill cycle hire owners, whose homes and premises would be impacted by the railway. They seemed ready to work with MEMRAP and were seeing Ruth George in the following week
- SC – meetings schedule from August, to be circulated with minutes. Highlights included:
 - Dr Simon Blainey from Southampton University has a new modelling tool for new stations. His paper published the comparison with the initial Borders Rail stations and the improvement was impressive
 - MEMRAP may have found a well-connected local council champion: Leader of Derbyshire District Dales Council, Garry Purdy is excited by the project and wants to meet RG and SC to introduce on 30/9.
- Covenants and guarantees about the Trail - RG reported continuing dialogue with Tim Nicholson at PDNP, not yet found all of the contract detail from 1968 (i.e. date of line closure). [NB – PDNP meeting about the move towards zero carbon on 15/10. They wish to include transport on that agenda]

4) Incorporation

- RG circulated proposal for resolution mechanism for any breakdown in the consensual model of articles. Meeting agreed the draft and RG agreed to incorporate into articles, submit to Companies House
- Re-confirmed that the first directors would be RG, JH, SC, MR.

5) Proposed meeting with Abellio – Steve Jones of Railfuture leading this:

- liaising with Laura Etheridge to set up MEMRAP meeting, but waiting for new franchise to “bed down”.
- as prep work, he is leading RF branch meets (NW, Yorks and EM) to align own policies & with MEMRAP

6) Funding for the Feasibility / Strategic Outline Business Case

- Abellio seen a possibility but could be TfN or DCC, in a matched funding combination
- Mott MacDonald to be asked to specify more clearly the nature of what would be delivered (MR) and SC to circulate minute from FCP conversation with Jonathan Barwick, directing MEMRAP to the model to be used.
- Ian Brown's support (RF) to be involved in the scoping, definition and setup of the proposed consortium
- Freight would help the Benefit Cost Ratio calculation
- The challenge of the Trail replacement is a special feature of the work (as is the heritage content)
- TH offered to investigate if a Derby Uni student could do a study for MEMRAP (re: cycle/Monsal trails)

7) Going Public

- Previous concerns now lessened as results of strategy day absorbed and group more confident of direction
- SC proposed Rotary Club "autumn tour" plus varied other meetings mean that MEMRAP is increasingly public
- TH and JM offered to draft a press release for use

8) Communication with the Quarries

- For clarity, we will examine all options. While we are seeking support from wherever we can to achieve the consortium quality that can succeed in re-opening the line, we would like to affirm our current objective of joining the current consortium of the quarries and Peak Rail in preference to creating a new one.
- It was noted that Breedon also owns Earls Cement works – DB offered to find introductions and also for Cemex
- SC to continue discussions with Tarmac and MDS
- Aim is to seek a meeting with the full consortium to explain MEMRAP's position and the availability of the strong support for the quarry position
- SC to circulate the labelled map of quarries and line, showing ownership.
- Intention to negotiate, e.g. the exchange of survey work for the future proofing in the initial stage of work
- Discussion about shortcomings of Chiltern and Borders projects, with an inability to future proof, also the role of dynamic loops versus full doubling of track.
- Rhomberg-Sersa methods may be useful in restricted spaces, without the need for sleepers and ballast

9) Progress - Derbyshire County Council and the 5 questions

- Meeting noted that Abellio had asked about MEMRAP their contact with DCC
- SC aims to have working draft for circulation and review by 22nd September when RG returns
- SC is grateful for costings help from Jonathan Cooper (Transport for Wales), Ian Ambrose (FDVL/NR)
- Aim is for Garry Purdy (DDDC) to comment on the draft after 30th September meeting, prior to submission to Chris Hegarty at DCC

10) Future Planned Actions and Meetings – see meetings reports from SC below

11) AOB

- Discussion about TWAO, the preferred route was to get content correct from the outset
- Re: HS2 – agreed to accept status quo until it changes and then adapt position.

12) Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd October, RG's home, Matlock 7.15pm – 8.45pm

Stephen Chaytow – Report back to MEMRAP

- 7/8 – Call, Chris Swan, Tarmac: will speak again end Sept after Westminster meetings
- 13/8 – liaison meeting with Chair of Ivanhoe campaign
- 16/8 – phone call: Jonathan Barwick, FCP consulting, who referred me to Robert Fickling (TfGM), timetable and economic analyst
- 16/8 – Barnaby Temple – phone discussion on costings and partnering (Rhomborg-Sersa)
- 19/8 – email from Robert Fickling saying that access to him is only via TfN
- 19/8 – Deborah Beck (Grantham Institute) with some onward referrals that led nowhere
- 19/8 – Dr Simon Blainey, Southampton Uni: new stations model, supercedes old models
- 19/8 – Oxford Uni directed to Leeds Uni: leading UK Uni for transport and environmental
- 22/8 – CBT Derbyshire and High Peaks presentation (Wilf Carey)
- 26/8 – Lloyd Butler updated the MEMRAP website, new scenarios and links put in
- 2/9 – email with Jeff Screeton re connections to TfGM / Liverpool / Welsh government
- 2/9 – Jonathan Cooper (TfW) outline costings and link to Welsh Government
- 3/9 – HST conference
- 5/9 – CPRE (Peaks and Dales), Sheffield (SC/MR)
- 10/9 – ACORP writing funding applications
- 12/9 – first RF meeting, with South Yorks branch to align goals with EM branch (SC/JH)
- 13/9 – Meeting with Ariadne Tampion (chair EM/RF) and Nicky Morgan (MP, Loughborough)
- 16/9 – Matlock Town Council (RG/SC)
- 22/9 – Draft paper for DCC to be ready for review
- 23/9 – Peak Park Planning Forum - Bakewell
- 27/9 – Chesterfield Rotary
- 30/9 – DDDC & Garry Purdy (Robin and me)
- 30/10 – Bakewell Rotary

Meetings & presentations to be planned

- TBA – second RF meeting with Trevor Bishop – chair RF NW
- TBA – meeting with Abellio – TBA
- TBA – Bakewell Town Council
- TBA – Rotary programme for the autumn

Issues to progress and resolve

- Conclude report for DCC on 5 questions
- Develop strategy and extend stakeholder list (eg Sheffield City Region)
- Funding shortlist: Abellio / TfN / Tarmac / DCC
- High Peak – regeneration initiative
- Public position for broadcast
- Buxton and High Peak to be approached
- Approach to engaging MC – for inclusion on strategy
- Liverpool & Welsh government – leads from Intercity Rail freight

Councillor contacts:

- Richard Robinson – Eastwood, Transport brief – met 30th July
- Kath Potter, National Park – long serving Board member – phone call only
- Alex Stevenson, Langley Mill – phone call to date
- Steve Barber (retired)
- Garry Purdy – Leader Derbyshire Dales District Council – meeting due 30th Sept