

## LRAG News Update – 13 June 2023

### Next Meeting of Sustainable Travel Reference Group (STRG)

Invites have now been issued to stakeholders to attend a further meeting of the STRG (strangely assigned the words “first meeting”) on 21<sup>st</sup> June. The meeting has been timed, reportedly, to allow a week for consideration of the details of the revised design for the Burpham Active Travel Scheme (from New Inn Lane (Aldi) roundabout to York/Waterden Road junction, including Boxgrove roundabout).

Already there are several elements that LLAG finds disappointing in the management of this new engagement process:

- The quality of staff work in sending out these invitations with a clear error, referring to this next meeting as “first”, implies a lack of attention to detail.
- Along with the invitations, there was an attachment called Terms of Reference, first published on 24<sup>th</sup> March in advance of the “real” first meeting, and is unamended. This attachment contains a Draft Timeline that has long been superseded and should have been revised. This is another indication of a less than satisfactory level of attention to detail in managing the new engagement process.
- The availability of stakeholders to attend meetings has been canvassed online. LLAG has monitored responses, and the date chosen (21 June) was 4<sup>th</sup> best in terms of stakeholder availability.
- Clearly, attendance by Council representatives is of the utmost priority, but the date selected was when neither Councillors, LLAG chair, Boxgrove Park RA chair, G-Bug representative, nor a nominated public transport stakeholder were available. One only hopes that this was not deliberate, but was clearly another lack of attention to detail.
- In reviewing such a complex project, and developing suitable questions and answers on behalf of the public, continuity of stakeholder involvement would seem to be essential, even if substitutes are permitted. SCC’s declared commitment to a comprehensive engagement process appears not to consider other than their own needs.
- As SCC declared in their Terms of Reference – “The Reference Group serves to bring together stakeholders to:
  - a) Contribute views from the community in relation to the Scheme and its activities, and where relevant, the views of wider stakeholders.”
- Once details of the final design have been released, merely a week in advance of the STRG meeting, “wider stakeholders” may be given little or no time to review, consider and comment back to their group spokesperson. This time compression being forced by SCC, following their own protracted process, does not seem to accord with the full engagement commitment.

And finally ... the rebuff to LLAG from the STRG Chair, about the lack of inclusion of emergency services and Royal Mail (reported last week), does little to enhance the feeling that this STRG process is merely a lip service to an inevitable decision to proceed, if necessary, bypassing public opinion.

### [LRAG Website](#)

LRAG continues to publish interesting articles about other active travel schemes and the [pitfalls of badly designed ones](#). The consequences of interactions on paths shared by pedestrians and cyclists, if the design of those paths does not exhibit adequate calming measures, can prove just as calamitous as between motorists and cyclists.