



Crouch Coastal Community Team

Lower Crouch River Crossing Working Group Meeting

Tuesday 7 February 2017 at 14:00

Station House, Burnham on Crouch

Meeting Notes

Present:

Doug MacEwen, CHA and CCT Vice Chairman
Jeff Kew, RSPB
John James, CHA and local Architect
Susan Harrison CHA Harbourmaster
Paula Chapman RDC
Ken Wickham CCT and CAYF
Keith Powell, Dengie Enterprise Support
Beverly Davies Rural Community Council of Essex

Apologies:

Cheryl Milton White RDC
Edwin Buckley, CHA Chairman
Russell Everard MDC
Cllr Ron Pratt MDC/BTC
Matt Wilson MDC

1. Welcome and Introductions

Those attending the meeting introduced themselves and the organisations they represented

2. Minutes of the 10 January 2017

It was agreed that the meeting notes represented an accurate record

3. Discussion with Beverly Davis - RCCE - on potential for LEADER funding.

DM summarised that project for the benefit of Beverly Davies from Rural Communities of Essex. The objective of the meeting was to explore the possibility of LEADER funding for some or all of the Lower Crouch Crossing.

BD outlined that the LEADER funding was comparatively small (£1.8M) in comparison to Coastal Community Team funding (£15M) It was intended to create jobs, develop rural business, support the rural economy and 70% of all projects must directly support the rural economy whilst 30% of projects also need to demonstrate that they are contributing to improving the local rural economy. LEADER could deliver up to 80% with match funding providing the rest.

1. After examining the Lower Crouch Crossing project with input from those present and including the scope of the private development BD suggested LEADER funding for the whole project was inappropriate:-
 - The RSPB development would be ineligible for funding because it was a national charity

- Although the pontoon on the Burnham side could be eligible it would represent a small part of the development funding
2. LEADER funding would be more appropriate for upgrading the proposed 30 seat all weather ferry service in the name of the operator.(£50k)
 3. An application under the Coastal Community Scheme or the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (£14M) was more appropriate for funding the Lower Crouch Crossing as the primary driver of the project was increasing tourism and growth associated with it. It could then utilise match funding for the private enterprise development for the whole project.
 - It was agreed the working group should apply for pre-selection of CCCT funding which closes on the 31 March 2017 **Action: all**
 - This would allow Rochford RDC to apply to SELEP funding for the cycleway from Rochford Rail Station to the RSPB reserve at Wallasea Island. **Action CMW and PC**
 4. BD suggested far more publicity should be given to the Lower Crouch Crossing Project and gaining the support of Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Infrastructure and Partnerships, Essex County Council, and Rural and District Councils.
 5. It was agreed to create a powerpoint presentation about the Lower Crouch Crossing Project and launch it to a special meeting including MPs Whittingdale and Mark Francois, Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth ECC, Cllr Channer ECC, MDC, RDC and CCC and the CCCT, **Action DM, JK, JJ**

4. Matters outstanding from 10 January 2017

- **Planning consents** JJ advised that basic design layout had been prepared and passed onto interested parties including CHA, RSPB and the private owner of the existing quayside jetty who had all indicated approval in principle, subject to detailed design and planning approval he confirmed that he would arrange preliminary quotations for the pontoon works from 2 specialist companies who manufacture such floating pontoons etc. **Action JJ**
- **Managing the ferry service.** DM advised that the CHA proposed to licence and control the operation of the new ferry service, but outsource the operation to a commercial operator. **Action DM SH**
- **Business Plan and Business Case** KP advised that he was presently working up the necessary “business plan” and “ business case” for the, but would require input from the RSBP. **Action KP/JK**
- **Match funding** KP reported he requires further input from RDC and MDC expertise **Action RE and PC**
- **Planning consents** PC reported that there was a delay in obtaining planning consents from RDC and suggested seeking early permissions **Action JK**

5. Matters arising since the last meeting

JJ reported on a successful meeting arranged by Edwin Buckley of CHA with officers of Maldon District Council to discuss the regeneration of the Burnham waterfront and the proposed Lower Crouch Ferry /crossing

- The meeting had been arranged by EB as CHA have a duty and responsibility to manage every aspect of the River Crouch and all associated economic, leisure, business and related activities and developments and in this case with particular reference to the town of Burnham-on-Crouch, the Dengie peninsular and the developing RSPB nature reserve on Wallasea Island.
- EB advised that the waterfront of Burnham was presently undergoing significant potential redevelopment affecting all those aspects and CHA were very keen to encourage “joined up thinking” in respect of such redevelopment proposals.
- EB would arrange further meetings with purchaser and MDC to coordinate development of those sites and properties.

- Regarding the Quayside Café and Fairways Chandlery site and associated Visitors Centre and Crouch Ferry terminal proposals EB and JJ would keep the MDC officers fully informed in respect of any forthcoming planning applications and they would appreciate the officers present supporting such proposals from an economic development and local tourism viewpoint as discussed at the meeting.

6. Any other business

None

7. Next meeting

To Be Arranged