

Town Clerk: Michael Greenfield



Assistant Clerk: Mrs L. Bendall

Lydney Town Council

Council Chambers, Claremont House, High Street, Lydney, Glos, GL15 5DX

Telephone: (01594) 842234

www.lydneytowncouncil.co.uk

PRESS RELEASE – FOR EMBARGOED UNTIL 26TH APRIL 2024 – 4PM

Back on track!

After a year's delay the Multi use track between Lydney and Parkend is again moving forward.

For the past twelve months a working group made up of Lydney Town Council and West Dean Parish Council have been working in partnership with local and national bodies to successfully find a way through the ancient woodland at Parkhill Enclosure and Norchard Wood. Potential disturbance of these areas of Ancient Woodland had negatively impacted on the progress through planning.

At a joint meeting held on Monday 22nd April both Councils gave their backing to the Working Group's report outlining revisions to the route through these two areas of Ancient Woodland. This report will enable the project to kick start the planning application currently sitting with Forest of Dean District Council. Both Councils agreed to the principle of the strategic link between Lydney and Parkend opening up the whole of the Forest with a safe, active travel route to all major towns.

Alison Bruce, the Chair of West Dean Parish Council praised the joint working group for their tenacity and perseverance in being able to bring a working plan to the table. She also thanked the openness and cooperation of Forestry England, Natural England, The Woodland Trust and especially the management of Whitemead Holiday Park, who have allowed the revised route through their land.

Councillor Tasha Saunders, Mayor of Lydney, on behalf of Lydney Town Council, thanks the Working Group for their efforts in addressing past planning concerns and developing a project that aims to benefit residents and tourists.

Councillor Saunders further commented that "this partnership arrangement is welcomed, to enable both councils to achieve common goals and objectives in the development of the Forest of Dean Gateway."

These changes will hopefully alleviate many of the concerns and issues of local residents whose properties would have been impacted by the original route. The joint Working Group will now continue their work to finalise some outstanding technical requirements for

planning. The Group will be holding a series of public consultation events to explain the changes and future management of the project.

Both Council's are looking forward to their continuing partnership bringing this much needed route to fruition; benefiting local residents and the Forest tourist industry.



Embargoed until – Friday 26th April 2024, 4pm

Photo – Cllrs Tasha Saunders, Major of Lydney Town and Cllr Alan Grant, Vice-chair of West Dean Parish Council

END

**For Further information please contact Michael Greenfield – Town Clerk
town.clerk@lydenytowncouncil.gov.uk Date: 24.04.24**

Lydney Town Council is striving to improve services for staff, councillors and residents and this is part of the continuous development of the council.