

Meeting	Full Council
Date	26 th November
Report Title	CONFIDENTIAL –Tadpole Working Party Update
Agenda Reference	18
Author	Georgina Morgan-Denn, Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO

Chief Officer's Recommendations:

To note the report and actions.

Railway Working Party Report 19.11.24

The Tadpole Working Party between railway representatives (4) and the Parish Council (VM, SH, RW, RH, LS (online) & GMD) covered several key areas of the potential railway partnership. The Railway, having faced a setback with rejected lottery funding, has shifted focus to their own operations and expansion plans. Discussions concentrated on long-term lease arrangements and future funding, emphasising the need for sustainable planning.

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to exploring a collaborative effort for a joint-use car park, addressing both the Railway's needs and the Council's requirements for allotment parking. The Railway also discussed plans for expanding and improving existing facilities, including considerations for transportation, visitor access, and initial maintenance plans.

Both parties agreed to explore the possibility of a joint-use car park for community benefit, rather than building separate parking facilities. It was noted that railway is likely to use the car park for up to 10-15 events per year, leaving the space available for community Parish Council events. Example of usage were discussed and included Christmas Markets and Outdoor Cinemas.

The meeting heard that there are plans for a permissible path to be factored into site layout and the Council originally bought the land as agricultural use, as such there have been no land searches.

The Railway confirmed that they do not plan to install lights or have electric installed, but solar or hydro powered lamp posts were mentioned. It was also confirmed that there are no plans to charge cars to park at the site.

The Railway's timeline is flexible, but they would like to aim for a December 2025 completion. The Chairman offered to attend their monthly (1st Friday) Trustees Meeting to discuss the potential partnership further.

Actions

1. Arrange a walk-around of the site to assess potential car park expansion and entrance planning (Julie)
2. Improved access to the proposed car park will be made possible by removing part of the hedge to increase visibility, particularly for right-side views (to be assigned).
3. Provide railway with previous entrance planning application to check what local searches may be required (Julie)
4. Legal guidance on merits of a Memorandum of Understanding versus a Long-Term Lease (Georgina)
5. Explore possible grant funding for generating new allotment space at Tadpole (Georgina/Liz)
6. Site layout to include permissible path and existing tree planting (Vinay).