

Operation Undercover 4 (OP4) News Bulletin No 1

January 2015

This project is now formally underway thanks to the generosity of so many people in 2014. This is the first in a series of News Bulletins which will be issued by the Project Steering Group to keep all interested parties up to date with project progress

Organisation: The Project will be managed by a Steering Group (SG) whose membership is as follows

- Dick Fearn - Chairman
- Steve Bigg – Project Sponsor
- Chris White - Project Director
- Roger Kelly - Funding Director and Steering Group Secretary
- Lewis Nodes - C&W Director
- Kevin Beauchamp – Construction and Engineering Advisor

Kevin is an independent lifelong rail industry engineer with vast experience in railway works and construction projects. He has offered his services for this project on a voluntary basis to assist in all aspects of the project, specifically, the specification and tendering for the major works.

The Steering Group will set the strategy and objectives for the project. It will approve all major expenditure and timescales against which delivery will be measured. It will ensure the correct Safety Management processes are in place. It will manage the Funding Strategy and communications process.

Reporting to the Steering Group will be the Delivery team led by Chris White and comprising, Rowan Millard (C&W Manager), Matt Crawford (Infrastructure Manager), John Knight (Planning), Steve Tullett (Safety and CDM), Sam Bee (BRPS) and Robert Hayward (BRPS) plus a Project Manager (to be appointed) for each phase

Project Scope The first objective of the project will be to erect the roof and get carriages under cover. However the scope of this project is far larger than that. OP4 Includes not just a carriage shed but a connecting building with lift for disabled access to offices, workshops, toilets and a meeting room. It also includes a separate building to be used for materials and parts storage. It will replace the existing buildings and containers. The project will be planned from the start to permit subsequent phases to fully implement all the facilities in OP4 as finance is raised.

Activity and Timescales The initial activity will be to clear the area for the construction of the roof with its supports. This means the relocation of existing parts storage containers, plus the provision of some new ones and temporary offices and workshops. The work is being planned and options for the temporary location of parts storage and offices are being investigated. The intention is that it be complete by the end of the summer. Simultaneously detailed specification will be drawn up and contract discussions held with potential contractors. The Delivery Team have been given the remit by the Steering Group to produce a detailed programme that would see construction starting by the autumn.

Finance and Fundraising: The sum of £365,000 has been raised or promised (with Gift Aid to be claimed) such that there will be a little under £370,000 in the bank by the end of the tax year. To this can added the expectation of £7-10k from the Track Trek. This will be dependent of the weather and the level of participation from supporters of the project. The Cash for Cover Appeal remains open and if additional money is raised it may be possible to place a contract for more than the carriage shed roof. Once the plan is known and the whole project broken down into costed phases, a funding strategy will be produced which will encompass more than public appeals. In the short term the SG released the sum of £25,000 for the site clearance and enabling work (e.g. temporary offices).

Communications: Bulletins such as this one will be drafted by the SG secretary and once agreed by the SG, will be passed to Roger Garman, Communications Director who will subsequently manage the distribution of information. This will vary from the direct use of this bulletin to articles in our electronic and printed media, plus press releases when required.

R Kelly
Steering Group Secretary

15th January 2015