

Parrett Barrier – Project Update, October 2015

- The project team have been answering final tender queries in the last few weeks. We have programmed time for review of tenders during November with appointment of a consultant before Christmas. We remain on programme.
- Members of the project team attended SDC Scrutiny Committee at the beginning of the month to provide an update on the project and progress to date. This provided an opportunity to update key stakeholders including Inland Waterways Association, the Internal Drainage Board, Harbour Master and Military Boats Group. The project team have received positive feedback since this meeting.
- The adopted 'development plan' - the Sedgemoor Core strategy does already include the barrier. The Parrett Barrier scheme is therefore being developed with the full support of the plan and its infrastructure priorities.
- This plan is now in a review process and SDC Members have agreed the Sedgemoor Local Plan 'Issues and Options' report which looks further ahead to 2032 and illustrates future development opportunities. The review will continue to include a broad location for the barrier and will raise questions about location as part of the public consultation exercise.
- One option includes a site north of Chilton Trinity and possible barrier/river crossing contribution which could link into potential plans that one developer has been progressing associated with the strategic growth of the town. The merits of this proposal will be carefully evaluated by the planning authority with the input of the EA and this will inform the final 'draft plan' during 2016, with a public examination in 2017.
- SDC have also made an additional Growth Deal submission.
- Meeting arranged for 16 October with members of the project team and SRA to provide a more detailed update of the project and programme for delivery, with invitees including John Osman, Nick Gupta and representatives from the IDB.

Doug Bamsey

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