

To Goring parish council 9 January 2023

Memorandum from MIGGS

Replacement orientation plaque outside Goring & Streatley station

Summary and purpose

- 1 This is a request for support from Goring-on-Thames Parish Council for a proposal from MIGGS to replace the existing orientation plaque outside Goring & Streatley station with an updated, more comprehensive and more inclusive plaque.
- 2 It is not a request for funds, which are expected to be provided by MIGGS from its own and third-party sources.
- 3 An urgent decision is requested because if the hoped-for funding is awarded the project must be completed and the funds spent by 31 March 2023.
- 4 Specific requests are for the Council to:
 - a Permit removal of the existing plaque.
 - b Support an application by MIGGS, should it be needed, for a certificate of lawful development to carry out the replacement.
 - c Provide advice and assistance that would help minimise the cost.
 - d Adopt the plaque in place of the existing one on to the Council's asset register (there will be no maintenance cost implications).

Details

- 5 MIGGS is proposing to replace the existing plaque (A1 size – 841 x 594mm) with a better one (A0 size – 1188 x 841mm), showing accessible walking and cycling routes around Goring and Streatley.
- 6 The imaging will be more colourful and informative, differentiating between routes that are (a) accessible to wheelchairs and mobility scooters; (b) other paths that are not currently accessible to everyone and (c) routes also open to cyclists.
- 7 Its location is chosen to help people arriving by train to identify suitable routes for their chosen means of enjoying the river and local countryside.

Funding

- 8 Funding, including the costs of researching and verifying information plus the cost of manufacturing, installing and obtaining planning permission, is being

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sought from the North Wessex Downs AONB. The application is made according to the following AONB criteria: it promotes rail travel, assists wayfinding, helps “under-represented groups” and promotes accessibility, walking and cycling. A decision on this is expected on or about 23 January 2023. MIGGS will be making a minority contribution from its existing funds.

- 9 Credits to funding and supporting bodies will be included on the face of the plaque. These are expected to include Goring PC, Network Rail, Great Western Railway, the NWD and Chilterns AONBs and the Thames Path and Ridgeway national trails.

Background notes

- 10 The existing plaque is owned by Goring-on-Thames Parish Council, although it does not appear on its asset register. It is located on highway land owned by Network Rail and leased to GWR. Approval for the change of plaque is confidently expected from both railway companies. A certificate of lawful development is being sought from SODC.
- 11 It was installed by the Network Rail electrification team on 24 February 2015 under planning permission P09/W0990/A, granted to Goring Parish Council on 3 December 2009. It was unveiled formally by John Howell MP and a senior representative of GWR on 13 March 2015, in front of an audience of local people including the then parish council chairman and clerk.
- 12 The plaque was a gift from Network Rail to the parish council, on behalf of the village, to acknowledge the disruption caused to, and the forbearance of, residents during the rebuilding of the High Street railway bridge in 2006/7.