

# BBC/EWR Governance Board – Minutes



**Date:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

**Time:** 1.30 – 3pm

**Venue:** Hybrid

## Attendees:

Paul Pace (PP)

Sarah Combes (SC)

John Molyneux (JM)

Anna Robbani (AR)

Jo Branson-Budd (JBB)

Aiden Hugill (AH)

Antigua Riley Corion (ARC)

Andrew Prigmore (AP)

No.	Discussion	Actions
1.	<b>Apologies</b>  Craig Austin (CA), Gavin Chinniah (GC), Simon Joynes (SJ)	
2.	<b>Updates from Workstream Leads</b>  <b>Property &amp; Legal – AH</b>  AH updated the Board that BBC’s Properties team continue to liaise with EWR re Intrusive, Non-intrusive and Archaeological licenses.  AH advised that he has requested further details regarding the licence schedule report.  AH advised that ongoing conversations regarding impacts to the Raleigh Centre are being held with EWR.  AH noted that external specialist advice may be required regarding the CPO of Charis House.  <b>DCO process &amp; Planning – JM</b>  JM provided the update regarding the DCO and Planning workstream in GC’s absence.  JM noted that we are still awaiting confirmation from EWR about the start date for the upcoming Spring non-statutory consultation.	<b>PP to arrange date for extraordinary Full Council meeting when dates for the non-statutory consultation are confirmed.</b>

Discussion regarding preparations for the non-statutory consultation, and approval and submission process.

**Traffic & Transport – JBB**

JBB confirmed that she received a response from the CEX of EWR on 25 March to her letter outlining the Council’s concerns about the impact to traffic in the town as a result of the proposed multi-storey car park in Queen’s Park. The CEX’s response stated that the projected impact to the road network as a result of EWR plans is similar across all options considered. He also noted that he wants close collaboration between EWR and BBC on proposed designs for car parking going forward.

JBB noted that BBC are waiting for a response from third party consultants on the technical reviews of EWR’s justifications for demolishing properties in Ashburnham Road and Poets area (the requirement for 6 tracks vs 4).

JBB updated that traffic modelling data is being reviewed by external specialists, and an extension to the deadline for BBC responding to EWR regarding this data was agreed.

**JBB to follow up on technical review report with external consultants.**

**Stakeholder Engagement & Communications – ARC**

ARC updated that during March, a meeting was held for affected residents in the Cauldwell and Queen’s Park communities. An update session was also provided to Town and Parish Councillors at the Town & Parish Council Network meeting on 30 March, which was well received.

ARC confirmed that a meeting had been held with BBC representatives and the ICB’s Estates team regarding the GP Surgery notified of CPO on Ashburnham Road.

ARC advised that she attended a meeting with EWR’s Head of Policy and Legacy to discuss Social Value and Legacy work; with further meetings to be arranged with relevant officers to coordinate work with partners.

**Environment – SC**

SC provided an update regarding the Environment workstream in SJ’s absence.

SC advised that still very little information has been provided by EWR regarding environmental matters such

	<p>as air quality, land contamination, flooding, water and acoustics. We have received a request to discuss some Environmental matters; SC will liaise with EWR to set this up.</p> <p>SC noted that on 25 February, she requested further information regarding the proposals for acoustic fencing along the MVL curve south of Bedford St John’s station, and any other options EWR have considered and discounted. She advised that when this information was not forthcoming, she followed up on 9 March and again on 25 March. SC expressed her frustration that we have still not received the information requested, and will continue to follow this up with EWR.</p> <p><b>Housing – AR</b></p> <p>AR updated that work continues toward mitigating the impact of the CPO of Charis House, with alternative models for rough sleeper provision in the area being explored through BBC’s Housing working group.</p> <p>AR confirmed that Housing officers had attended the public information sessions held by BBC to answer any public questions regarding housing matters connected to the EWR project.</p> <p>AR noted that no further information has been received regarding the CPO of Charis House.</p> <p><b>PPA &amp; 4 vs 6 Tracks – JBB</b></p> <p>JBB confirmed that EWR has now agreed to BBC’s request for 2 FTE project posts for the Council. JBB advised that she will now progress with the recruitment process for these posts.</p> <p>JBB advised that additional data and information have been requested regarding the rationale for ‘4 vs 6 tracks.’ A meeting with EWR has been arranged for 30 April.</p>	<p><b>SC to follow up with EWR on MVL curve plans and information again.</b></p>
	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1.30 – 3pm (Hybrid)</p>	