

## MINUTES

RVF (RAG) Sefton Council liaison team meeting -16<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

Present: RAG, Peter Dowd MP (PD), Bill Esterson MP (BE), Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), Sefton Councillors (SC)

### *Judicial Review (JR):*

- SC has submitted an application, for consideration by a judge who will then decide whether it goes forward to judicial review
- Barristers believe there is a 50/50 chance of it being successful
- If judge says no, then SC can appeal
- CPRE commented that SC could enhance/widen the grounds for JR application and requested that they have greater involvement in the JR application. SC welcomed their advice. CPRE to assist.
- JR process can be a very long procedure and therefore difficult to assign/predict dates
- If JR fails, PD said that there are other challenges that could be made e.g. a public enquiry

### *Bill Esterson MP (present for approx. 40 mins)*

- Has identified the Governments *Clean Air Strategy* as an opportunity to challenge Highways England (HE) and has written to Michael Gove (Sec state for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and Chris Grayling (Transport Secretary)

### *Peel Ports (no representatives at meeting)*

- BE said that PP have spent £750m to-date and were asking the Government to match this, mainly to be used for rail development
- SC said that PP had agreed to support SC in the campaign, but there has been a disappointing lack of support from them

### *Sefton Council strategy*

- Currently refusing to co-operate with HE
- PD explained that they are trying to challenge and delay HE process at every possible stage
- SC currently in the process of appointing Clean-air consultants regarding the A5036 and hoping to create a Clean-air zone in that area
- PD trying to persuade Government to consider the cost of the potential road/tunnel investment over a much longer time than at present
- PD appreciated RVF request to ensure good, visible communications with the community. He will contact BBC, ITV in the New Year, to try to publicise the campaign. He will also send out letters to local constituents

### *CPRE*

- To assist SC with judicial review application
- To campaign for Liverpool docks and associated transport access to be part of a national (as opposed to a local) project
- To assist RVF in conducting a hustings before next local elections

### *RVF*

- To continue to engage, enthuse and inform local community about Rimrose Valley
- To liaise with CPRE and hold hustings in run up to next local elections