

A47 Alliance Steering Group

Meeting: 2pm on Wednesday 17 September 2014

Venue: County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2SG

Meeting Note

In attendance:

Alan Kirkdale	Highways Agency
Andrea Long	Broads Authority
Cllr David Ritchie	Waveney District Council
Cllr Kit Owen	Fenland District Council
Cllr Graham Newman	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Ian Bates	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Margaret Dewsbury	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Peter Hiller	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Roger Foulger	Broadland District Council
Cllr Tim East	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Toby Coke	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr Brian Walker	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Cllr Bruce Provan	Waveney District Council
Cllr David Harrison	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Mick Castle	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Paul Claussen	Breckland District Council
Cllr William Richmond	Norfolk County Council
David Cumming	Norfolk County Council
David Glason	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Eddie Tyrer	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Fiona Walker	Office of Elizabeth Truss MP
Hamish Melville	Broadland District Council
John Birchall	Norfolk County Council
Lewis Banks	Peterborough City Council
Mark Reeve	Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP
Michael Selfe	RAC Foundation
Paul Moss	Waveney District Council
Peter Grimm	Suffolk County Council
Peter Jermany	Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
Richard Perkins	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Robert Sturdy	New Anglia LEP
Sally Wilcox	Office of George Freeman MP
Simon Machen	Peterborough City Council
Thomas Gatzen	Office of Steve Barclay MP
Tom McCabe	Norfolk County Council
Wendy Otter	Fenland District Council

Apologies:

Andy Watt	Norwich City Council
Anna Graves	Breckland District Council
Bob Tuckwell	Cambridgeshire County Council
Caroline Williams	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Carolyn Barnes	Waveney District Council
Cllr Mark Bee	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Michael Wassell	Breckland District Council
Cllr Ralph Butcher	Fenland District Council
Cllr Terry King	Greater Cambridge / Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership
Cllr Vivien Spikings	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Jonathan Cage	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Marie Finbow	New Anglia LEP
Mark Pendlington	New Anglia LEP
Phil Mileham	Breckland District Council
Simon Marjoram	South Norfolk Council
Steve Barclay	MP for North East Cambridgeshire
Tim Edmunds	Norfolk County Council
Trevor Ellis	Greater Cambridge / Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership
Will Marshall	Suffolk County Council

1.0 Welcome and introductions**2.0 Nomination of Chair**

Tom McCabe outlined the terms of reference in relation to voting for a Chair for the group. There were two nominations: Cllr Toby Coke and Cllr Roger Foulger. Cllr Foulger won the vote and nominated Cllr Coke as his vice-Chair.

3.0 Last meeting note and matters arising

The last meeting note was accepted as a true record and all actions have been completed.

4.0 MP engagement

MPs have been alerted to the outcome of the Stage 2 Feasibility work. However, there is a need to continue to work with MPs to keep the long term strategic aims on their agenda and to ensure the Autumn Statement is implemented.

Q) Is there a BCR value for the whole route as this is what the MPs fixed upon for the A11?

A) This was addressed in item 6.

Need to ensure MP support is maintained along the entire length of the route – likely to be value in re-iterating this with each MP endorsing full dualling.

5.0 **A47 Feasibility Study – update**

Alan Kirkdale provided an update drawing attention to the Autumn Statement announcement due on 3 Dec 2014. 33 ‘problem’ areas have been identified, representing both current and future issues with the network. Currently focussing on the ‘current’ issues – are they deliverable, achievable. Next steps include a high level economic assessment. Reports on the feasibility studies expected to be made available by the DfT in due course.

There was a discussion about the Acle Straight and whether land should be protected as a transport corridor.

Questions were raised regarding the lack of identified schemes in the west of Norfolk and a letter was referred to from Cllr Vivien Spikings to the Divisional Director of the Highways Agency, asking for the Hardwick Junction study to be included in the list of priorities.

It was agreed that the officer group would do more work to look at what needs to happen after the Autumn Statement. There will be a full mail out after 3 December 2014 to outline the position.

TMcC

A discussion took place regarding the A12 re-designation and signage. It was agreed that the group name should remain as the ‘A47 Alliance’. It was agreed that the Highways Agency would liaise with Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils. Norfolk County Council agreed to send the Highways Agency a letter of support for this re-designation. Suffolk have already done this. Highways Agency asked for a letter of support from the A47 Alliance and Business Community too.

TMcC

DC

6.0 **Updated business case**

David Cumming introduced the new business case document. Mouchel have looked at the BCR for transport impacts only (previous work included economic impacts). The BCR for the whole route is high (2-4). This document is designed to be used as an effective lobbying tool.

7.0 **Communications**

Over 70 businesses are signed up to attend the business breakfast on 26 September.

Further communications will be planned once the outcome of the Autumn statement is known.

Any ideas / opportunities for communications should be sent to Claire Sullivan (claire.sullivan@norfolk.gov.uk)

8.0 Other updates

- Local Growth Deal Update – The New Anglia settlement is for £173m. The A47 is not part of this process. There is £1m for studies around the Wisbech area.
- Pinchpoint update – there are 2 key junctions: one at the western end where the A47 meets the A1 – improvements are due for completion March 2015. The second is to improve flow through the Honingham Roundabout, again due for completion March 2015.

9.0 Any Other Business

MEP representative – It was agreed that all MEPs should be asked for an expression of interest and suggested that someone from the MEP's office could attend meetings in their absence.

10.0 Date of next meeting

No date was agreed – it was proposed that officers should have an officer meeting after 3 Dec announcement, followed by an Alliance Group meeting in mid-January. King's Lynn was proposed as a possible venue

Date of Next Meeting:

TBC – Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk