

# A47 Alliance Steering Group

**Meeting:** 1.30pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Venue:** Committee Suite, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX

## Meeting Note

### In attendance:

Cllr Roger Foulger ( <i>Chair</i> )	Broadland District Council
Cllr Richard (Toby) Coke ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	Norfolk County Council
Ed Newbund	Office of Vicky Ford MEP
Fiona Walker	Office of Elizabeth Truss MP
Cllr John Timewell	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Margaret Dewsbury	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Paul Claussen	Breckland Council
Cllr Ralph Butcher	Fenland Council
Cllr William Richmond	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Ron Hanton	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris	Norfolk County Council
Alan Kirkdale	Highways England
Oluwole Odetola	Highways England
Andy Heap	Amey for Highways England
Mark Reeve	GCGP LEP
Jonathan Cage	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
David Cumming	Norfolk County Council
Fiona McDiarmid	Norfolk County Council
Andrea Long	Broads Authority
Amy Petrie	Peterborough City Council
David Glason	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Jack Eagle	Cambridgeshire County Council
Kevin Ward	Breckland Council
Michael Selfe	RAC Foundation
Peter Grimm	Suffolk County Council
Peter Jermamy	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Wendy Otter	Fenland District Council
J Bagley	
Carolyn Barnes	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Cllr Colin Law	Waveney District Council
Cllr Ian Bates	Cambridgeshire County Council
Julian Munson	South Norfolk District Council

### Apologies

Henry Bellingham MP

Keith Simpson	MP
Cllr Graham Plant	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Cllr Graham Newman	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Mark Bee	Suffolk County Council
Paul Moss	Waveney District Council
David Ritchie	Waveney District Council
Cllr Peter Hiller	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Tim East	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Alastair Cox	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Andy Watt	Norwich City Council
Anna Graves	Breckland Council
Julie Kennealy	Breckland Council
Tom McCabe	Norfolk County Council
Sandra Bush	North Norfolk District Council
Hamish Melville	Broadland District Council
Mark Pendlington	New Anglia LEP
Marie Finbow	New Anglia LEP
Chris Starkie	New Anglia LEP
Holly Smith	Office of Steve Barclay MP
Richard Perkins	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Simon Machen	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Finch	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Vivienne Spikings	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

## **1.0 Welcome and introductions**

## **2.0 Apologies for absence**

2.1. Apologies listed above.

## **3.0 Last meeting note and matters arising**

3.1. The last meeting note was accepted as a true record.

3.2. Peter Grimm raised an issue relating to correspondence between Cllr Mary Evans and Cllr Roger Burroughs, Chair. This correspondence suggested that the government Watchdog be invited to the Alliance.

It was **agreed** that they should be invited to the next meeting.

**DC**

## **4.0 Highways England: Next steps for the A47**

### **4.1. Update on Junction and Dualling Improvements in Roads Investment Strategy**

Alan Kirkdale introduced Oluwole Odetola, Highways England, and Andy Heap, Amey. Oluwole and Andy gave a presentation outlining how the schemes included in the trunk road programme would be brought forward.

This presentation is attached to the minutes.

4.2. The following issues were raised in the ensuing discussion:

Cllr Bates: The timeline to delivery is unacceptable. It should be possible to bring forward schemes earlier.

Oluwole Odetola replied that it might be possible to accelerate delivery of some of the schemes, but this couldn't be decided now. It would be necessary to complete the current stage of work before being able to consider if – for example – the time for design work on Blofield to Burlingham could be condensed because this scheme had been taken forward previously. HE's focus is on ensuring the work is progressed in a proper manner to ensure that the Development Consent Order (DCO) process is not compromised.

Cllr Dewsbury asked if there was anything locally that could be done to help progress.

Oluwole Odetola responded that HE would be working with local authorities

Mark Reeve asked if it would be better to prioritise the 'quick wins' and take these forward earlier, rather than taking forward all schemes at once.

Oluwole Odetola responded that this might be possible but – again – this decision couldn't be made now.

Peter Grimm asked whether smaller schemes such as the junctions at Great Yarmouth could be progressed earlier.

Oluwole Odetola responded that this might be possible for the schemes not requiring a DCO.

Jonathan Cage suggested that HE shouldn't build all schemes at once.

It was agreed that this should be avoided due to both road user delay and congestion as well as construction resource availability.

Cllr Toby Coke asked if there were any changes that could be made to the planning system that might help.

HE representative responded that not only might changing the legislation take longer than completing the process, but the legislation for DCOs had already recently been made more streamlined.

Following a suggestion by Cllr I Bates it was **agreed** that HE would respond to the Alliance's concerns by setting out a more detailed timeline for each scheme, and that the Alliance would reply to the letter from the MPs setting out: that the decisions and the process rest with HE/DfT rather than the Alliance; to press the case for earlier and more detailed engagement, design and delivery from HE; and to press the case for the next phase of A47 improvements.

HE

DC

4.3. **Update on A12 Renumbering**

Alan Kirkdale stated that the renumbering of the A12 from Great Yarmouth to Lowestoft would be undertaken in the New Year.

Peter Grimm expressed his disappointment that this wouldn't be taking place in the autumn as originally suggested.

#### 4.4. **Update on Acle Straight**

Alan Kirkdale set out that HE would be undertaking trials of moving the habitats in the dykes.

### 5.0 **Other Updates**

#### 5.1. **Pinchpoints**

- Wansford A1/A47 junction – scheme complete. Alterations to signal timings had been undertaken which had addressed some earlier concerns.
- Lowestoft Spine Road: complete

#### 5.2. **LEPs**

- Mark Reeve updated the group to say that GCGP LEP has received Growth Deal funding from government for study work to look at Wisbech Access Study and J21.
- New Anglia: no update was given at the meeting.

### 6.0 **A47 Timeline**

- 6.1. David Cumming summarised the process for feeding in to development of the trunk road programme post-2020. He emphasised that the process is starting immediately, and the Alliance would need to respond to this. He set out the process and the opportunities the Alliance would have to feed in to it, and the relevant timescales.

The presentation is attached to the minutes.

- 6.2. Cllr Ron Stanton noted that the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing was not included on the circulated timeline. David Cumming stated that a revised timeline would be sent out, and this would include this scheme.

- 6.3. It was **agreed** that the A47 Alliance should update its Business Case brochure for a potential Ministerial delegation in the autumn. **DC**

### 7.0 **Any Other Business**

- 7.1. None

### 8.0 **Future Meetings**

#### 8.1. **Next meeting**

Tuesday 20 October 2015 1.30pm, Norwich

#### 8.2. **Future programme of meetings**

Tuesday 12 January 2016 1.30pm Venue tbc

Tuesday 19 April 2016 1.30pm Venue tbc