

A47 Alliance Steering Group

Meeting: 1.30pm, Tuesday 26th January 2016.

Venue: Cranworth Room, County Hall, Norwich, NR1 2SG.

Meeting Note

In attendance:

Cllr Roger Foulger (<i>Chair</i>)	Broadland District Council
Cllr Richard (Toby) Coke (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Guy McGregor	Suffolk County Council
Simon Chapman	Office of Rail and Road
Oluwole Odetola	Highways England
Andy Heap	AMEY
Peter Grimm	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Colin Law	Waveney District Council
Mazia Auckburally	Office of Rail and Road
Dominique Mazzone	Highways England
Aaron Douglas	Highways England
Hamish Melville	Broadland District Council
Andrea Long	Broads Authority
Ian Bates	Cambridge County Council
Jack Eagle	Cambridge County Council
Michael Selfe	RAC Foundation
Paul Claussen	Breckland
Simon King	Fenland District Council
Alan Kirkdale	Highways England
Mick Castle	Norfolk County Council
David Glason	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Tom McCabe	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Tim East	Norfolk County Council
David Cumming	Norfolk County Council
Hannah Grimes	Norfolk County Council
Margaret Dewsbury	South Norfolk Council
Peter Jermany	Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk
Julian Munson	South Norfolk Council
William Richmond	Norfolk County Council
Paul Spanton	New Anglia LEP
Cllr John Timewell	Norfolk County Council
Lewis Banks	Peterborough Council
Jonathan Cage	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce

Apologies:

Alastair Cox	West Norfolk Borough
Cllr Richard Blunt	West Norfolk Borough
Caroline Williams	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Cllr James Finch	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Michael Ladd	Waveney District Council

Richard Perkins
Andy Watt
Cllr Michael Wassell
Mark Pendlington
Adrian Cannard
Wendy Otter
Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Cllr David Ritchie

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Norwich City Council
Breckland
New Anglia LEP
GCGP LEP
Fenland District Council
Norfolk County Council
Waveney

1.0 Welcome and introductions

2.0 Apologies for absence

- Apologies listed above.

3.0 Last meeting note and matters arising

- The meeting note was agreed subject to changing the date to show the correct one.
- Peter Grimm noted that – as the Planning Inspectorate were unable to attend the meeting – could the Alliance ask them of the implications of the delivery programme proposed? This was agreed.

4.0 Office of Rail and Road

4.1. Simon Chapman gave a presentation about the Office of Rail and Roads role as Highways Monitor.

The presentation is attached.

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

- The Alliance had concerns about the timing of the delivery programme. Roger Foulger asked what the ORR could do to expedite delivery. Is there any way the schemes can be brought forward?
- Simon Chapman replied that the ORR does not have a mandate to speed up delivery. There is a set timetable, and delivery should be held to that.
- Ian Bates reiterated concerns about the speed of bringing the schemes forward. He stated that it was now over a year since the Autumn Statement announcement (about including

schemes in the programme) and there needs to be some tangible signs of progress being made.

- There was also general wider concern about whether smaller schemes could be brought forward, particularly those not needing a Development Consent Order (DCO)?
- Highways England stated they will look into possibilities of bringing schemes forward.
- Tim East asked if there could be defined targets in RIS2 as there are very few in RIS1. For example over standards of performance of the strategic road network.
- Simon Chapman stated that the ORR would monitor performance against the set targets in RIS1 and would provide advice to government about RIS2 targets
- It was noted that there was a difference in key performance indicators for motorways, roads like the A11 and A14, and largely unimproved roads such as the A47
- Margaret Dewsbury raised concerns were raised over the time frame in relation to the planned dualling of Easton to Tuddenham, particularly in relation to junction improvements near Easton occurring after the building of 900 homes. She also raised the issue of the Norwich Northern Distributor Road and potential work to look at the possibility of providing a Wensum Link to connect this to the A47 near Easton and the NDR. It was suggested that a public consultation should be held about the Tuddenham junction before Highways England finish their plans.
- Michael Selfe asked what – if any – sanctions could be applied to Highways England
- Simon Chapman replied that there was an ability to apply fines, although it was recognised that ultimately this would, in effect, simply be circulating public money back into the government pot. He stated that the main damage would be to Highway England's reputation.

5.0 Highways England – Progress on A47 Delivery

- 5.1. Oluwole Odetola gave an update on progress with junction and dualling improvements.

The presentation is attached

- 5.2. During this he noted that there had been a recent session with MPs in Westminster. A further session was being arranged for July.

He also stated that any decisions about accelerating schemes would be able to be made by the end of the year.

- 5.3. Discussion following the presentation centred on the timing of delivery (ie could it be done sooner) and on some of the schemes not included in the current programme, principally the Acle Straight

Alan Kirkdale reminded the Alliance of the decision-making process that took place leading up to agreement of RIS1. He stated that a value for money decision had been taken about what

schemes should be included in the trunk road programme. He outlined that given existing traffic conditions on the Acle Straight there had not been a strong enough argument for its inclusion.

He stated that small scale safety measures will be implemented in the shorter term, and that Highways England is undertaking studies into the Little Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail. If these are successful it will remove a major blockage to any improvements being brought forward in the future

5.4. Update on A12 re-numbering

- Work is likely to be undertaken after Easter.

6.0 Other updates

6.1. David Cumming reminded the Alliance about the process of decision-making leading up to RIS2.

There were no other updates.

7.0 Any Other Business

- Invite planning inspectorate and transport focus to the next meeting.

8.0 Future Meetings

- Tuesday 19 April 2016 at 1.30pm. **Venue TBC.**