

A47 Alliance Steering Group

Meeting: 10am on Monday 10 February 2014

Venue: Kings Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, PE30 1EX

Meeting Note

In attendance:

John Birchall	Norfolk County Council
David Boddy	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Ralph Butcher	Fenland District Council
Jonathan Cage	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Mick Castle	Norfolk County Council
David Cumming	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Margaret Dewsbury	Norfolk County Council
Sandra Eastaugh	Norfolk County Council
Marie Finbow	New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
David Glason	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Peter Grimm	Suffolk County Council
Cllr David Harrison (chair)	Norfolk County Council
Peter Jermany	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Ellen Jones	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris	Norfolk County Council
Alan Kirkdale	Highways Agency
Tom McCabe	Norfolk County Council
Fiona McDiarmid	Norfolk County Council
Hamish Melville	Broadland District Council
Phil Mileham	Breckland District Council
Cllr Graham Newman	Suffolk County Council
Wendy Otter	Fenland District Council
Richard Perkins	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Bruce Provan	Waveney District Council
Cllr William Richmond	Norfolk County Council
Michael Selfe	RAC Foundation
Mark Speed	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Vivienne Spikings	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Bob Tuckwell	Cambridgeshire County Council

Apologies:

Cllr Ian Bates	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Mark Bee	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Paul Claussen	Breckland District Council
Cllr Tim East	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
Tim Edmunds	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Roger Foulger	Broadland District Council

Cllr Colin Law	Waveney District Council
Simon Machen	Peterborough City Council
Simon Marjoram	South Norfolk District Council
Paul Moss	Waveney District Council
Mark Pendlington	New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
Cllr David Ritchie	Waveney District Council
Keith Simpson MP	MP for Broadland
Chris Starkie	New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
Robert Sturdy MEP	MEP for Eastern Region
Cllr Brian Walker	Great Yarmouth Borough Council

1.0 **Last meeting note and matters arising**

Cllr Castle highlighted the need for significant design work (£5m) to enable the Third River Crossing in Great Yarmouth to be in a position to “take off the shelf” and that tolling should be considered as a funding option for delivery.

The Strategic Economic Plan includes the Third River Crossing in Great Yarmouth and looks to use the single local growth fund to help with the design and development work for this project.

2.0 **MP engagement**

Cllr Harrison updated the steering group on the Local MPs summit held on 10 December. He stated that although there had been some confusion regarding the business case the recent visit by David Cameron provided a strong indication that our campaign is being taken very seriously in Westminster. We expect further impetus tomorrow when we meet Robert Goodwill MP, Roads Minister.

3.0 **Updated business case**

The business case has been updated to take account of MPs comments as well as further work by the Alliance and now covers the A12 trunk road route between Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. The business case asks for £374m in the short to medium term and £800million in total. More recent work by the Alliance improves the business case and offers better value for money in terms of jobs, housing and economic output. The table on pages 6 and 7 has been adjusted as MPs wanted to see the projects in short/medium/long term.

Councillor Spikings questioned the methodology where only 400 homes are said to be directly attributed to improvements at Hardwick junction.

Current economic modelling methodology only attributes a proportion of total homes/jobs to be developed, in the case of King’s Lynn a quarter, however it is acknowledged that this method does disadvantage the ‘story’ being put forward.

Tom McCabe stated that MPs are very positive about the campaign now and feel that we should be pushing for full dualling and grade separation. There are still some gaps in our business case at the moment but we could review to include this. MPs are quite clear that we need to present the whole ask.

It was agreed that the current business case does cause us to potentially undersell ourselves and that the wider strategy should be presented including the potential for future growth and more information regarding the totality of associated traffic and the problems of rat-running

The longer document previously provided introduces the rationale and the 'missing bits'. Happy to receive comments on the 'work in progress' and agreed that this work is ongoing and iterative.

ACTION – all to feedback comment to david.cumming@norfolk.gov.uk

4.0 **Route Based Strategy**

Highways Agency presentation to be attached/place on website

Peter Grimm asked if there was an opportunity to add any additional information or evidence?

Comments to be received in the next couple of weeks so if additional evidence/comments are to be incorporated they need to be received quickly and as part of this process.

The group asked how much money DfT is committing to forward programmes and over what timescale?

The Highways Agency is to become a Government Agency from April 2015 and will have a 5 year spending programme rather than 1 year as currently. Current spend is in the order of £1bn per annum and this will increase to £3bn from 2017. Similar levels of funding were achieved during the 1970's with the development of the motorways. During 18/19 and 19/20 there is a lot of unallocated funds to potentially take advantage of, announcements are expected in this year's Autumn Statement dependent on how worked up schemes are.

There was a discussion regarding the need for 'quick win' schemes to ensure early delivery but it was thought that these need to be considered alongside the larger schemes to ensure delivery throughout the spending programme.

Finally, the group agreed that the wider context needs to be considered as part of the process including the feasibility work currently underway on the NDR

5.0 **A47 Feasibility Study – remit and implications**

Highways Agency presentation to be attached/place on website

The group wanted to understand scope and what the answers might be? Because of the timescales he thought it would not be able to cover design of schemes or look at full economic impact. Is the scope going to be broad enough?

Alan Kirkdale suggested that the level of detail regarding cost, value for money and environmental impacts needed to be sufficient to give Ministers confidence in any Autumn Statement announcement. He stated that this was probably achievable for

some junction schemes but dualling schemes were more challenging. Alan stated that the additional funding from 18/19 and 19/20 could be used to work up schemes but they needed to be identified in the programme.

6.0 **Communications**

The group were updated on various communication activities including the website www.a47alliance.co.uk and the new @A47alliance twitter feed. They were also updated as to the recent meeting with the Federation of Small Businesses and the presence of the A47 Alliance campaign at their event on 13 February.

Cllr Richmond asked whether the Alliance might have a Facebook page and a piece in 'Your Norfolk' magazine and other local authority publications

ACTION – follow up

7.0 **Other updates**

Strategic Economic Plan

The New Anglia Strategic Economic Plan will form the basis of the local growth deal and the work of the Alliance has followed through into the SEP to ensure consistency of message

Link to draft Strategic Economic Plan:

<http://www.newanglia.co.uk/how-can-we-help-you/keep-informed-2/strategic-economic-plan/>

Pinchpoint update

Safety improvement at A1/A47 junction to be completed in March
South bound traffic improvements at A1/A47 junction to be completed September
Honingham capacity improvement to be completed next financial year

8.0 **Any Other Business**

Alan Kirkdale agreed that the Feasibility Study would investigate full dualling including grade separation.

9.0 **Date of next meeting**

10 am 30 April in King's Lynn – Committee Suite, Kings Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, PE30 1EX