

# A47 Alliance Steering Group

**Meeting:** 1.30pm Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Venue:** Becket Chapel, Peterborough Cathedral, Cathedral Office,  
Minister Precincts, Peterborough, PE1 1XS.

## Meeting Note

### In attendance:

Cllr Roger Foulger (Chair)	Broadland District Council
Cllr Graham Plant	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
Anna Graves	Breckland District Council
Cllr William Nunn	Breckland District Council
David Glason	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Oluwole Odetola	Highways England
Tom Bennett	Amey
Davina Galloway	Highways England
Nigel Allsopp	Highways England
Hamish Melville	Broadland District Council
Julian Munson	South Norfolk Council
Cllr Colleen Walker	Norfolk County Council
Tig Armstrong	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Tim East	Norfolk County Council
Nick Atkinson	Working with Amey
Richard Perkins	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Carolyn Barnes	East Suffolk & Waveney District Council
Cllr Colin Law	Waveney District Council
Peter Grimm	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Robert Savage	South Norfolk Council
Cllr Guy McGregor	Suffolk County Council
Jack Eagle	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Ian Bates	Cambridgeshire County Council
Wendy Otter	Fenland District Council
Michael Selfe	RAC Foundation
Cllr Richard Blunt	Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk
Peter Jermamy	Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk
Cllr William Richmond	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Paul Claussen	Breckland District Council
Cllr Simon King	Fenland District Council
Claire Sullivan	Norfolk County Council
David Cumming	Norfolk County Council
Hannah Grimes	Norfolk County Council
Guy Dangerfield	Transport Focus
Lewis Banks	Peterborough City Council

### Apologies:

Alistair Cox	Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk
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Andrea Long  
Andy Heap  
Andy Tatt  
Andy Watt  
Cllr James Finch  
Cllr Maragret Dewsbury  
Cllr David Ritchie  
Chris Starkie  
Fiona McDiarmid  
Fiona Walker  
Gary Bellward  
Jonathan Cage  
Keith Simpson  
Marie Finbow  
Mark Pendlington  
Phil Mileham  
Roger Chenery  
Sandra Bush  
Simon Marjoram  
Tom McCabe  
Cllr Mick Castle  
Cllr Mark Kiddle- Morris  
Cllr Peter Hiller

Broads Authority  
Amey  
Peterborough City Council  
Norwich City Council  
Suffolk County Council  
South Norfolk Council  
Waveney District Council  
New Anglia LEP  
Norfolk County Council  
MP Elizabeth Truss Office  
East Suffolk & Waveney District Council  
Norfolk Chamber of Commerce  
Parliament  
New Anglia LEP  
New Anglia LEP  
Breckland District Council  
Highways England  
North Norfolk District Council  
South Norfolk Council  
Norfolk County Council  
Norfolk County Council  
Norfolk County Council  
Peterborough City Council

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

- Apologies listed above.

#### **3. Last meeting note and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed subject to the following changes.

- Remove Cllr Walker from the apologies.
- Change the organisation of Peter Jermamy to Kings Lynn and West Norfolk.
- Change Highways Watchdog to Highways Monitor.

**Action:** Send presentations around from the last Alliance meeting.

#### **4. Transport Focus**

Guy Dangerfield gave a presentation about the role of Transport Focus as a road user's representative.

- The presentation is attached.

Discussions

Are passenger focus also concerned about off-road facilities such as service stations?

- Passenger Focus considers services as part of the roads not as a separate issue.

Are passenger focus an independent body and who funds them?

- Transport Focus is a public body sponsored by DfT ORR uses Transport Focus information to hold HE to account.

A point was made that near London queues are more of an issue than road surface.

Do Transport Focus have a role in making sure HE deliver schemes as early as possible?

- Transport Focus are there to help the process and not to slow the process down. The views of road users are important to help the process.

### **Highways England– Progress on A47 Delivery**

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

- Funded by Chancellor in 2014
- HE have been working with stakeholders along the route and are happy to be held fully accountable. Wale explained they had been looking at a number of options for each schemes which will go out to public consultation spring 2017 (3 options for each scheme). At present HE have a number of options for each scheme.
- Wansford to Sutton- Different options have different impacts on the environment and community depending on dualling the north or south of the road. Powerlines and the impact on the petrol station and other businesses.
- Guyhirn- Expanding roundabout but need to consider the impact on the bridge and the environment. Not discounting an earlier start.
- Easton to North Tuddenham- The main challenge along this stretch is that there are lots of inhabitants and HE don't want to impact on villages. Another issue is due to the length and the number of junctions along the stretch. HE are also talking to NCC about a potential Norwich Western link.
- Thickthorn- Some of the challenges are the cost, power cables, congestion and being able to accommodate extra traffic from development.
- Blofield and Burlingham- HE are aware that Blofield has been looked at previously. HE have met with the parish council, village and community and are aware of issues.
- A12 junctions- In summary HE think it might be possible to deliver some of these earlier.
- Wale outlined the timetable of activity, by October HE will have 3 or 4 options for each scheme. The consultation will be in Spring 2017 and September next year HE expect to have a preferred option for each scheme.

### Discussions

What is being done about the Acle Straight?

- The area is environmentally sensitive and HE are looking at relocating snails, this needs to be successful before anything else can be done. If

Acle is in the next RIS2 HE want to be ahead. Roads in England will be ranked against other roads to, need a compelling argument.

What standard of junctions is HE looking at in Great Yarmouth and Guyhirn

- HE looking at grade separation but need to consider the business case and constraints such as environmental constraints.

Do Ministers need to approve the schemes or is it an internal HE process?

- Wale said it depends on the strength of the business case, complexity and statutory procedures but it is not possible at this stage to say which will need to be signed off by Ministers.

A point was made that it is important to keep residents onside and Local authorities can help HE in doing this.

Given the delivery date for RIS1 schemes and the ongoing work, is there any guarantee that the money will still be there for delivery.

- Government has ring fenced money for delivery and it is backed by the Infrastructure Bill 2015. There is a low risk. The support from MPs in this area is recognised.

## 5. Highways England – Roads Investment Strategy Two

Nigel Allsopp briefly explained the process of RIS2.

HE have started working on RIS2. There was a call for evidence which ended July 1<sup>st</sup> however HE are happy to accept submissions until the end of July. In August consultants will compile work. An options assessment report will be completed by the end of the year and the route strategies published in March 2017.

Discussions

What is the role of the ORR and Transport Focus?

- Transport Focus will feed into the process.

Who are the contacts in HE for other areas?

- Eric Cooper, Simon Amor and Davina Galloway.  
**Action:** HE to circulate a list of the team structure.

When is the A12 being renumbered? A lot of concern was expressed by the Alliance that this was originally programmed for 2015 and it is very important that businesses are aware and can plan promotional materials.

- Money isn't part of the RIS1 funding and needs to come from another budget. There wasn't enough funding in the previous year's budget to complete the work. HE is sending a business case for their internal investment committee at the end of July for a decision about whether the work will be done during 2016/17.

## 6. A47 Alliance

David Cumming introduced an item for discussion about how the Alliance decides its priorities, feeds into the RIS2 process and external communications.

David stated that:

- The Chair has written to the Minister about delivery of RIS1 schemes.
- Local authorities have regular 1:1 meetings with HE.
- We have a draft communications plan.
- Proposing to update the website
- Planning a business breakfast

David raised the following items:

Does the Alliance need to refresh priorities and how?

What activities?

How could businesses be better involved?

During discussions there was agreement that the A47 needed consensus about its priorities and needs the support of MPs and councillors.

It is important to continue to build links with businesses. Cllr Nick Worth outlined that he supports the dualling of the A47 and would be happy to help.

Cllr Walker pointed out that the Acle Straight is a dualling priority for Norfolk and should be included in the updated business case.

**Action:** Officers to agree draft priorities for the next meeting of the Alliance.

**Action:** NCC to work with Lincolnshire districts and others on better engagement with businesses.

**Action:** NCC to arrange a small group of Alliance representatives including Chief Executives and leaders to meet with MPs.

**Action:** NCC to update A47 Alliance website.

## 7. Other updates

Chambers of Commerce

Richard Perkins stated that the Chambers of Commerce would like to see some action. The Chambers are happy to get businesses more involved in the process. MPs met with Highways England a few days ago, they have said they don't feel engaged.

Cllr East suggested holding the Alliance on a Friday so MPs may be able to attend on their way back home.

## **8. Any other business**

Cllr Nunn suggested that the Alliance needs to focus to stop meetings being a discussion by using senior politicians and Chief Executives.

## **9. Future meetings**

**Action:** Invite Planning Inspectorate to the next meeting.

**Action:** NCC to send around meeting invites.

November 2016

March 2017

July 2017