

A47 Alliance Steering Group

Meeting: 1.30pm on Tuesday 3 March 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:

Clr Roger Foulger (<i>Chair</i>)	Broadland District Council
Clr Richard (Toby) Coke (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Norfolk County Council
Clr Graham Plant	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Clr John Timewell	Norfolk County Council
Clr Margaret Dewsbury	Norfolk County Council
Clr Mary Evans	Suffolk County Council
Clr Paul Claussen	Breckland Council
Clr Ralph Butcher	Fenland Council
Clr Vivienne Spikings	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Clr William Richmond	Norfolk County Council
Alan Kirkdale	Highways Agency
Amy Hanner	Norfolk County Council
Andrea Long	Broads Authority
Andy Tatt	Peterborough City Council
David Cumming	Norfolk County Council
David Glason	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Fiona McDiarmid	Norfolk County Council
Fiona Walker	Office of Elizabeth Truss MP
Hamish Melville	Broadland District Council
Jack Eagle	Cambridgeshire County Council
Julian Munson	South Norfolk District Council
Marie Finbow	New Anglia LEP
Mark Stanton	Breckland Council
Michael Selfe	RAC Foundation
Peter Grimm	Suffolk County Council
Peter Jermany	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Tom McCabe	Norfolk County Council
Wendy Otter	Fenland District Council

Apologies

Clr Colin Law	Waveney District Council
Clr David Ritchie	Waveney District Council
Clr Graham Newman	Suffolk County Council
Clr Ian Bates	Cambridgeshire County Council

Cllr Mark Bee	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Paul Moss	Waveney District Council
Cllr Peter Hiller	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Tim East	Norfolk County Council
Andy Watt	Norwich City Council
Anna Graves	Breckland Council
Caroline Williams	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Carolyn Barnes	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Chris Starkie	New Anglia LEP
Edward Cearns	Cambridgeshire County Council
Holly Smith	Office of Steve Barclay MP
Jonathan Cage	Create Consulting
Mark Pendlington	New Anglia LEP
Richard Perkins	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Simon Machen	Peterborough City Council
Simon Marjoram	South Norfolk District Council
Tim East	Norfolk County Council
Tim Edmunds	Norfolk County Council
Trevor Ellis	CS Ellis Group Ltd

1.0 **Welcome and introductions**

2.0 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies received are listed above

3.0 **Last meeting note and matters arising**

The last meeting note was accepted as a true record. Minor amendments made to correct list of attendees.

4.0 **Highways Agency feedback – how we move forward with the funded schemes**

Alan Kirkdale gave a presentation to update the group on progress. **The presentation will be sent out with the meeting note.** AH

Further information on the Roads Investment Strategy and the full suite of documents are available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-investment-strategy>

Feasibility Study update – DfT will publish all reports together. No date as yet but expected to be soon. **AK will inform the Alliance when they are published.** AK

A47 – funded schemes account for 8 out of 66 nationally – this is a very positive achievement for the group.

Timescales for delivery - Consultants URS have been appointed to design and deliver the A47 schemes in the Autumn Statement.

There is an assumption that all schemes will require a Development Consent Order because they are nationally significant infrastructure, therefore it is likely to take around 60 months to reach the construction phase. Consultation likely in 2016 with construction likely from 2019 onwards. AK proposed to bring along a colleague to the next Alliance meeting once more information is known re: delivery programme, etc. **AH to invite to next meeting.**

AH

Work is already underway to plan for Road Period 2 (from 2019/20). Route Strategies being updated. Input will be received from the new 'Monitor' and 'Watchdog' bodies overseeing the functions of Highways England (from 1 April 2015). Therefore need to engage with these to push forward future schemes.

A discussion followed which is summarised below:

Timescales and delivery - HA will change to Highways England from April and new org. will be tasked with delivering schemes to timescales. Currently producing a delivery plan – to be published prior to April.

Solutions / scheme design – work to date has been based on one potential solution for identified problems to enable Ministers to determine delivery priorities. Broadly the process is to develop multiple solutions (options), seek public views (consultation), develop final option, publish Development Consent Order, make recommendation to Secretary of State.

Funding constraints are not causing delays – programme is dependent on statutory processes, not availability of funding. DCOs are required for works outside existing highway boundary.

A12/A47 renumbering– this is programmed for delivery in 2015/16. HA / Norfolk / Suffolk need to work together to ensure delivery happens simultaneously. HA's contractor currently putting a programme together.

Full dualling – several members of the group expressed a desire to continue to lobby for full dualling of the A47, especially to remove constraints to growth. Possibility of accessing other funding was discussed, e.g. European TEN-T. Need to maintain pressure along while route and emphasise whole-route benefits as per business case.

Main purpose of Alliance:

- continue to gather evidence
- continue to lobby for full dualling
- continue to develop the next schemes

5.0 Discussion on schemes included in the Autumn Statement

It was noted that completion of the Easton to Tuddenham and the

Blofield to North Burlingham schemes would mean dualling all the way from Dereham to Acle, some 30+ miles.

Acle Straight – Norfolk County Council has agreed to put £1m towards preliminary work to progress dualling of this section. Norfolk officers to investigate how to move this forward.

DC & others

Guyhirn – requires significant improvement.

Vauxhall Roundabout – this is a significant scheme.

6.0 **Future programme and activities of the Alliance**

6.1 – *Future Priorities*

- Suffolk – Lowestoft 3rd crossing
- Norfolk – Acle Straight & Tilney All Saints to East Winch
- Cambs / Peterborough – Thorney to Wisbech

It was agreed that individual authorities / neighbouring authorities should continue to gather evidence / develop schemes in a suitable format for Highways England.

All

6.2 – *Opportunities for communications.*

There are no activities planned at present. Members urged to consider / propose suitable short and medium term communications activities for discussion at the next meeting.

All

7.0 **Other updates**

7.1 *Pinchpoints*

- Wansford A1/A47 junction – scheme almost complete
- Honingham roundabout – scheme abandoned due to announcement of more significant Eaton to Tuddenham dualling scheme

7.2 *LEPs*

- Marie Finbow updated the group on the latest funding announcement; The Government has awarded New Anglia LEP a further £48.5m to be spent in the region to 2021. See link below for the full list of projects that have secured funding in the Growth Deal extension:
<http://www.newanglia.co.uk/2015/01/29/norfolk-and-suffolk-awarded-50m-in-government-growth-deal-for-aviation-engineering-innovation/>
- GCGP – no update was given at the meeting.

8.0 **Any Other Business**

East Winch Pedestrian Crossing - Toby Coke raised this. DC offered to pick it up in the next HA liaison meeting.

DC

9.0 **Future meetings**

9.1 *Next meeting*

Agreed to hold next meeting in early July at Borough Council of

King's Lynn and West Norfolk offices. **Date to be confirmed.**

AH

9.2 Future programme of meetings

It was agreed to leave the future programme until after the next meeting, when hopefully more will be known in terms of scheme programmes, etc.