



Minutes
A47 Alliance Steering Group
9:00-10:30am Friday 8th October 2021
Virtual Meeting Via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Cllr Martin Wilby

Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Alistair Ryder	National Highways
Andrew Summers	Transport East
Anna Graham	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Ashley Rabot	National Highways
Candy Richards	Federation of Small Businesses
Chris Griffin	National Highways
Cllr Alison Cackett	East Suffolk Council
Cllr Brian Long	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Colleen Walker	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Graham Plant (Vice- Chair)	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Cllr Mark Kiddle- Morris	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Martin Wilby (Chair)	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Paul Claussen	Breckland District Council
Cllr William Richmond	Norfolk County Council
Daniel Grimmer	EDP
David Cumming	Norfolk County Council
David Glason	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Ellen Goodwin	New Anglia LEP
Elliot King	
Esme Yuill	Transport East
Helen Corina	Norfolk County Council
Jack Eagle	Cambridgeshire County Council
James Burgess	Parliament (Richard Bacon's Office)
Jan Challis	National Highways
Jane Spence	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Lewis Boudville	East Suffolk Council
Matt Stafford	National Highways
Michael Travers	Norfolk County Council
Nova Fairbank	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Paul Harris	South Norfolk and Broadland Council
Peter Jermany	Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
Philip Scotney	Road Haulage Association

Richard Leonard	National Highways
Roisin	Parliament (Chloe Smith's Office)
Simon King	Cambridgeshire County Council
Tom Cornwell	Road Haulage Association
Tom Lawman	National Highways
Tom McCabe	Norfolk County Council
Vince Muspratt	Norfolk County Council
Wendy Otter	Fenland District Council

Apologies:

Charlotte Palmer	Peterborough City Council
Clive Lewis MP	Parliament
Cllr Andrew Reid	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Chris Seaton	Fenland District Council
Cllr David Oliver	Fenland District Council
Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
Cllr Norman Brooks	East Suffolk Council
David Powles	EDP
Duncan Baker MP	Parliament
Emily Martin	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Jerome Mayhew MP	Parliament
John Bridge	Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce
Luke Page	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Marie-Pierre Tighe	Broads Authority
Dr Nik Johnson	Mayor Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Nina Cunningham	South Norfolk Council
Peter Aldous MP	Parliament
Richard Bacon MP	Parliament
Steve Gooding	RAC Foundation
Joanna Smith	Parliament

1.	Welcome and introductions Martin Wilby (MW) welcomes attendees and briefly runs through the organisations at the meeting.
2.	Apologies for absence See above.
3.	Agree minutes from the previous meeting (23 October 2020) Agreed.

4.

Just Dual It Just Fund It campaign update

David Cumming (DC) hands over to Michael Travers (MT) for presentation on the campaign.

MT Shares presentation.

- Campaign to fund the A47 dualling in the 2021 Comprehensive Spending Review – confirmed to be on the 27th October 2021.
- Priority schemes are the Acle Straight dualling, Tilney to East Winch dualling and Peterborough to Walton Highway dualling.
- Campaign is going well. Lots of media coverage, social media interactions and support from key local stakeholders.
- Social media day of Action 13th October. Need as many people as possible. Tweet and post on Facebook. #JustDualIt #JustFundIt. Suggested wording is “We’re supporting the campaign to dual the A47 #JustDualIt. Let’s call on the Government to prioritise our region’s road network and agree to #JustFundIt.”
- Need more organisations to show their support. Call for attendees to provide NCC Comms with a quote to share on social media stating why you support A47 dualling.
- Email quotes and support to a47alliance@norfolk.gov.uk

Graham Plant (GP):

- Asks are the business community fully behind the campaign?
- MT state that NCC Comms have reached out to communities. Reiterates ask for help to attendees. MT states that any help is welcome.
- Nova Fairbank (NF) states Chamber of Commerce is happy to help. They will go out to the business community and call for support. NF states the support and campaign can continue past the spending review to generate support for inclusion of A47 dualling in RIS3. NF will chase up quotes from other businesses which can be included in the campaign. NF will take control of the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce twitter on the Social Media Day of Action.

Brian Long (BL):

- Raises query regarding the Broadend Rd Junction on the A47. Asks whether this has gone off the radar of the Cambridgeshire Mayor? Asks if we can continue to push for this scheme through the A47 Just Dual It campaign?
- DC responds to BL stating that NCC officers have recently been involved in discussions regarding Wisbech A47 Junctions and progressing these schemes. DC suggests Alistair Ryder (AR) may be able to provide an update on this in his presentation (next item).

Teams Chat Box:

- Candy Richards (CR) states:” I’ll be featuring this in our FSB newsletter, social media channels, and events. Could you share the suggested wording for social media by email?” Suggested wording for social media has since been sent to meeting attendees and is included above.

5.

National Highways Peterborough to Walton Highway Update

MW hands over to Alistair Ryder (AR) for presentation.
Introductions from AR and Richard Leonard (RL) from National Highways
AR gives presentation on the Peterborough to Kings Lynn scheme. Slides are attached.

- Baroness Vere commissioned National Highways to undertake a strategic review of the A47 between Peterborough and Wisbech in March 2021
- National Highways commissioned to undertake Stage 0 Study– inception stage of scheme consideration and development
- Study objectives: Addressing congestion and delay, improve safety, provide for future travel demand and area aspirations, NMU provision, develop SOBC determining viability and deliverability of options
- National Highways are collaborating with key stakeholders
- Three different options (low cost, medium cost and high cost)
 - Dualling is a high-cost option - offline dualling
- Developing a PERA report – environmental risks and constraints – looking at the impacts of the package of options
 - Option 1 (low-cost) scores well
 - Option 2 most favourable score
 - Option 3 (dualling) has more risks and environmental issues that would need to be mitigated
 - Will require further assessment
- The study will articulate the need for intervention and be used to build a strong case for route strategies
- In the final analysis stage – firming up the costs and benefits. This will be presented to the Project Board in November.
- Final reporting will conclude late 2021
- Submit evidence to DfT in early 2022 for further consideration as part of wider RIS3 planning

RL states that the proposed alignments will evolve with time and today they have shown a package of measures which can be developed and taken forward.

Peter Jermamy (PJ):

- Asks AR and RL whether there is any update on Broadend Road?
- Anna Graham (AG) states that Broadend Road was county council scheme funded by local growth funding. When developing the work Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority funded the project up to the end of detailed design and completion of purchasing land. Only funded up to detailed design and land procurement.

GP:

- States that not having something in the RIS is disappointing and makes it difficult to dual in a piecemeal manner, as was the original ambition. GP states he is not sure we will see funding of the A47 and is not confident we are high enough up the ecological ladder for highways so must go through government and ministers. GP states the Alliance need to fight all the way to get what we need to make sure Norfolk does not miss out. States we

may need a different route to RIS as it takes too long and if we miss out it takes even longer.

Simon King (SK):

- Introduces himself. Recently reappointed by Cambridgeshire County Council and not much has changed since he last sat on the A47 Alliance. Need to exploit every possible avenue to get funding.

AR will share slides.

MW introduces Andrew Summers (AS) to provide an update from Transport East Subnational Transport Body

AS:

- Transport East are consulting on their strategy in November. Encouraging members of the Alliance to get involved in the engagement.
- The A47 is one of their priority corridors emerging from the strategy
- Encouraging the Alliance to get other STBs involved in the campaign as the A47 crosses STB borders.
- Working to support A47 dualling at a STB level and making sure the A47 is amplified through STB work

6. RIS 1 National Highways Update

MW hands over to Matt Stafford (MS) who also introduces Chris Griffin (CG) who will present the slides.

CG:

- Lead for 6 A47 schemes
- Provides update on each of the RIS1 funded A47 schemes

A47 projects – overview (1)

project	status
A47 Wansford to Sutton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCO submitted to Planning Inspectorate (PINS) July 2021, accepted August ▪ Registration with PINS for relevant representation open to 21 October
A47 A141 Guyhirn junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Started on-site February. Currently night-working to minimise congestion ▪ Completion scheduled April 2022
A47 North Tuddenham to Easton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCO submitted and accepted. Being assessed by Planning Inspectorate ▪ Public Hearings scheduled for November.
A47 Blofield to North Burlingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCO submitted and accepted. Hearings held in August. Examination scheduled to close December
A47 A11 Thickthorn junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCO submitted and accepted. Preliminary Meeting to review procedural aspects was on 23 September. No issues. ▪ Registration with PINS for relevant representation is open to 13 October ▪ Surveys ongoing to October
A47 Great Yarmouth junction improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project restarted following third crossing decision ▪ Using traffic modelling by Norfolk County Council ▪ Currently reviewing options
A47/A1101 Elm Road junction, Wisbech – RIS3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Options identification under way for potential delivery in a future RIS period. ▪ Project is not committed past PCF stage 2

Colleen Walker (CW):

- Sad to see that the Acle Straight does not feature with National Highways. CW states that the snails have settled well after their trial relocation. CW is worried from a business perspective as people avoid Acle Straight route.

Does not want businesses to miss out. The quantity and impact of accidents is awful. CW states we need to fight harder for Great Yarmouth and the businesses.

- MW agrees and states this is one of the biggest priorities and is much needed.

Nova Fairbank (NF):

- States a huge deal has been made about the amount of progress on the A47 schemes but it is 7 years since we got the funding and we are still only at the DCO stage. There are more and more accidents every year. No other roads in the UK are this delayed.
- States we are the breadbasket of the UK. A key tourism and offshore renewables hub and our road network cannot cope with this. NF states our region needs more attention and that our road network 50 years behind rest of UK. NF states we need to see more progress.
- MS responds stating that 18 months ago National Highways did a reset on the A47 schemes. Baroness Vere watched very closely on the progress being made. National Highways are now on track with new commitments. MS states that views on this are very welcome and they need the support of the Alliance.
- MW states that the Alliance need the support of National Highways.
- MS states they will do everything within remit to support and that they must base recommendations to DfT on evidence and analysis. They must play the honest broker.
- MS states that local support strengthens the case a lot and will make sure the Alliance is fully engaged in the process.

GP:

- States that the last 5 years have been wasted. The National Highways reset to get to where we are today is disappointing and not enough. States the DCOs should have been submitted 5 years ago. GP expresses disappointment and frustration to National Highways for exclusion of A47 in RIS2. Mentions how the Alliance put the business case together. States that the delay has caused a loss to the country in GVA because we have not had the road built. GP states the Alliance is trying to make the country a success and that National Highways are holding up the investment.
- GP states the A47 Alliance is the only way to get improvements made to Norfolk's highway and that the Alliance is being left to do all the work and put the business cases together. States that a reset is welcome. The only issue going forward is the business cases.
- MS responds and does not wholly agree with GP's statement. MS states that National Highways have made significant progress and have invested 2.2 billion in the east in RIS 2. MS states National Highways are currently pulling together recommendations for RIS 3. MS confirms that DfT make the decisions for RIS, not National Highways. National Highways do the technical work. MS states National Highways have a lot in train and they have delivered 4 DCOs in 6 months.
- CG also states that National Highways are making progress. CG working to make construction cause less disruption and to reduce traffic management

on schemes. CG states National Highways are looking to do environmental mitigation work in the new year. CG hopes the Alliance can see they are putting a lot of effort into the RIS1 schemes now. CG states people will be seeing National Highways on sites very soon. CG understands the Alliance's concerns.

SK:

- Raises question about progress on the Elm Road junction/A1101/A47 junction at Wisbech.
- Chris Griffin will provide information on this outside of Alliance meeting.
- Jan Challis (JC) National Highways engagement states that they are collecting information on this scheme and speaking to local authorities to gather evidence and develop options.

Ashley Rabot (ARab): Delivery lead for route strategies

- States that National Highways want to talk about getting input into route strategies.
- Brings attention to National Highway Route Strategies workshops on the 18th October which will help grow the evidence base
- Brings attention to the online feedback tool and states that there has been a great response for the A47 ([Our route strategies - Highways England](#))
- States that National Highways are creating the long term ambition for the route
- There have been MP round tables regarding the A47 and the Acle Straight
- States National Highways will value attendance of the A47 Alliance at the Route Strategy workshop
- DC confirms the A47 Alliance have received the invitation and are identifying the representative to attend.

CW:

- Asks what RIS is the Acle Straight will be in? Tells story that her grandfather used to complain about the road 60yrs ago and there has still been no improvement. States there are so many accidents and asks how many more need to happen before it is dualled?
- MW states we are asking National Highways today for the Acle Straight to be added to RIS 2
- ARab states they will have to wait to receive the evidence base. MW says we have been giving National Highways the evidence for years and asks what more can we do? CW Agrees.

GP:

- Asks whether everything that has happened in the past to enable dualling has been taken into account? States that redoing the evidence base is time consuming and tiring. We have already done so much. GP states that it has been ignored. We need to understand what the methodology National Highways use is in order to make dualling happen. GP expresses frustration and states we have tried hard to fit in with National Highway's asks. GP states the A47 has never been in a RIS just per say and that the Alliance have always had to do it ourselves and campaign. We are

	<p>producing the evidence, the business cases and providing it to whoever asks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Lawman (TL) – National Highways operations in the east – states that there has been an update on the snails trans location studies and that there is the requirement of a 5 year monitoring period until 2023. TL states that the results are mixed but generally positive. Some of the snails have thrived and others have failed. There is a legal requirement to continue the study to 2023 and that this is something not within National Highways control. TL states that lobbying of the A47 had a big impact on RIS1. Asks the A47 Alliance to continue working with National Highways as it helps a lot. • MW response to TL and states he was told when snail study started that it would have no impact on the progress of the Acle Straight scheme and that it would work in parallel. TL confirms the study is not holding up any work.
7.	<p>Other updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LEP representative Ellen Goodwin (EG) – the LEP are developing a renewal plan – post covid and Brexit. The strategy is themed around people, business and place and resilience. If there are any questions, please go to Ellen direct. - Combined Authority representative Anna Graham (AG) – States the Combined Authority are still committed to A47 dualling. They are working with National Highways and still see dualling as the transformative option. MW – looks forward to keeping working together with the Combined Authority. SK states it is good to hear this from Anna and that the messages he has heard have not corresponded. States there is a need for the Combined Authority to communicate their commitment to dualling. - Chambers of Commerce representative Nova Fairbank (NF) - continue to support dualling and will push hard. Will continue to support National Highways. State that the A47 Alliance are the only people able to make a difference. Chambers fully support the Alliance. <p>Teams Chat Box: NF states “A good meeting - but we need to keep pushing hard to ensure the A47 improvements are featured in RIS2”</p>
8.	<p>Any other business None.</p>
9.	<p>Future meetings Date TBC.</p>