

Minutes
A47 Alliance Steering Group Meeting Note
 1-3pm Friday 27 September 2019

Supper Room, Town Hall, Great Yarmouth

Chairperson: Cllr Martin Wilby

In attendance:

Cllr Colleen Walker	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Graham Plant	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Cllr Martin Wilby	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Mick Castle	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Paul Claussen	Breckland District Council
Cllr Roger Foulger	Broadland District Council
Cllr William Richmond	Norfolk County Council
Daniel Hickey	Great Yarmouth Mercury
David Cumming	Norfolk County Council
David Glason	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Ellen Goodwin	New Anglia LEP
Joe Goldie	Galliford Try
Paul Wells	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Peter Aldous MP	Member of Parliament
Peter Havlicek	Highways England
Peter Jermany	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Richard Perkins	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Roland Potter	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Simon Wood	Breckland District Council
Tom Lawman	Highways England

Apologies:

Alan Todd	Federation of Small Businesses
Andy Tatt	Peterborough City Council
Andy Watt	Norwich City Council
Chloe Smith MP	Member of Parliament
Christine Marshall	Breckland District Council
Clive Lewis MP	Member of Parliament
Cllr Alison Cackell	East Suffolk Council
Cllr David Oliver	Fenland District Council
Cllr Gordon Bambridge	Breckland District Council
Cllr Ian Bates	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Mark Kiddle- Morris	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Paul Hewett	Breckland District Council
Dan Grimmer	EDP

Doug Field	New Anglia LEP
Henry Bellingham MP	Member of Parliament
Jack Eagle	Cambridgeshire County Council
Jonathan Cage	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Keith Simpson MP	Member of Parliament
Lewis Banks	Peterborough City Council
Marie- Pierre Tighe	Broads Authority
Mayor James Palmer	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Nova Fairbank	Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Paul Medd	Fenland District Council
Philip Scotney	Road Haulage Association
Steve Gooding	RAC Foundation
Tom Cornwell	Road Haulage Association
Wendy Otter	Fenland District Council

1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr Wilby welcomed the attendees.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies are listed above.

3. Last meeting notes and matters arising from 21 June 2019

Agreed.

4. Roads Investment Strategy One (2015-2020)

P Havlicek explained that Galliford Try had formally been appointed for next six years, which would see the team on board through construction. He then gave the latest on each of the A47 schemes:

Guyhirn

- This will be the first scheme to be constructed with a committed start of works in March 2021, but likely to start significantly before then. Highways England (HE) have met local authorities and environmental bodies

Wansford

- HE is pushing for start of works, with a schedule similar to Guyhirn, but there are some challenges. HE will be carrying out stakeholder engagement. This will help to decide on options for scheme

Tuddenham

- HE are currently closely liaising with Norfolk County Council, which has a Liaison with NCC regarding the Norwich Western Link.

Blofield

- Liaising with cadent in regard to gas main. Looking to get it moved before work starts on the site. Start of works March 2022

Thickthorn

- Pleased with the scheme but need to look at the side roads strategy. Working locally to run through

Gt Yarmouth

- No 2 from HE and next down met B Lewis in July. Still waiting for direction from another part of the scheme. Looking to deliver a scheme delivered shortly after delivery of The Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing.

Cllr Wilby

Asked if there was capacity for works to commence within the start times, PH confirms there is.

G Plant

A business case was put forward with real benefits of dualling including to economy, these have not been realised. Understanding of the meeting was that delivery was that delivery of the Great Yarmouth Vauxhall Roundabout improvement scheme was due to be finished the same time as the Third River Crossing.

GP read letter from HE to Brandon Lewis.

Attended meeting. Result of meeting was that works should be progressed. Disappointed that HE were not able to say where the scheme is on the timeline. GP asked if they could have a timetable in reference to this. PH confirmed they could.

HE had to revisit the scheme after coming up with preferred schemes due to TRC coming along. Needed to be revisited because of this to ensure that public money is spent wisely

M Castle

Expressed that Vauxhall Roundabout on the Acle Straight needs to be a priority. The design needs to take into account the Acle Straight dualling, Vauxhall holiday park, sidings etc. Could not understand the delay with the project.

PH voiced the issues were discussed at the last meeting, but in essence there are different traffic meetings at Vauxhall.

E Goodwin

Timeline for Thickthorn, estimated to start 21st March.

R Foulger

Blofield to Burlingham is a safety concern. There are no major planning problems and the consent order is ready for next year. Asked when the work is due to start. PH commented it has an estimated start date of March 2022. RF said it is regrettable the estimated start date is not sooner, for which PH explained the start date has not changed since 2017.

R Potter

Asked to see programmes with milestones in reference with Galliford Try (GT), particularly high level programmes. PH commented start dates for works have always been fixed and are in GT contract but will release it as soon as possible.

E Goodwin

PH's assertion that programme has only shifted once is not correct. They also shifted in 2019. Now government commitment is for delivery in RP2. PH stated that RP2 is 2020-2025.

R Perkins

Asked for a firm date for the programme, PH said one would be arranged before the next meeting. GT commented there must already be a date as part of the contract of appointment.

PH

The work that is being reviewed on the Great Yarmouth schemes is using NCC's consultants for modelling. Strategy and planning are putting governance in place so the project can be taken forward. Senior meeting with B Lewis came to different conclusion to letter which is why there is strategy and planning involved. RP S&P busy putting recommendations for RIS2.

Questioned if HE should have reduced delivery expectations from the start. PH said the RIS1 announcement was rushed, RIS2 should be more measured and have an accurate timeline.

Action: A47 Alliance to send a letter to DfT explaining our concern for the current RIS1 schemes.

5. Roads Investment Strategy Two (2020-2025)

PH

- RIS2 will be published later this year, likely November, cannot give any indication right now

HE

- The total amount is £25bn, but there are some very large commitments including for maintenance and lower Thames crossing, Stonehenge etc.

G Plant

- RIS1 was a successful campaign, but worried that RIS1 funding will not be enough

PH

- Stated at previous meetings that the money is committed, they have signed a contract with GT for five schemes. There is no problem with them but they cannot comment on Vauxhall

DC

- In reference to A47, Transport East are to write to minister

R Perkins

- The HE organisation structure has changed in the last six months, the operations are now divided into counties, RP questioned if this affects things

HE

- The Norfolk team picks up all of A47 into Suffolk. The new structure starts on 2nd October 2019.

C Walker

- Assurances are required about Vauxhall Roundabout Acle Straight. Important to get the Acle Straight right for the Town. Need to ensure that RIS1 delivers.

Action: lobby ministers, get local MP support

6. Other updates

R Potter: worked with HE operations on their projects, then went to he strategy and planning were hoops were much higher. Looked at three optins. Disparity in cost estimates. Understands that note went to dft, but couldn't be collaborative. Had to speak to dft separately. 13 dec 2018 j o Sullivan said he had signed off 300m money, so should be secure

RIS2 LTC and Stonehenge use 50% of funding. Need to be realistic unless new government funding. A senior member from the strategy should be invited to attend. Guyhirn to Wisbech requires maintenance funds. A47 has a high number of accidents and is poorer in terms of conditions, requires capital spend on improvements.

Agreed to invite more senior people

PH Julie had to give apologies today

LEP

Local Industrial Strategy accepted by board on weds, now in government, publication is expected in October.

Chambers of Commerce

R Perkins, Lowestoft to Thickethorne is the main interest, so particularly disappointed about delays due to its effects on Lowestoft.

R Foulger

Important to deliver improvements in RIS1 and RIS2 for the Acle Straight

P Claussen

Breckland signed up to LIS

7. Any other business

None noted.

8. Future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on a Friday in Norwich in February.