

## Environment, Transport & Development Department Minutes of Meeting

**Norwich Western Link Local Working Group**

**(draft copy)**

**Held on: Tuesday 21 February 2017 Time: 5:30pm**

**Venue: Hall for All, Weston Longville**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Job Title/Organisation:</b>
Cllr Martin Wilby	Chair of EDT Committee (meeting Chair)
David Alfrey	Major Projects Manager, NCC
Joanna Lyon	Technical Director, Mouchel
David Wildman	Technical Manager, Mouchel
Ruth Goodall	Weston Longville Parish Council
Graham Everett	Drayton Parish Council - Chairman
Sue Pretton	Hellesdon Parish Council
John Pennells	Taverham Parish Council - Chairman
John Ames	Costessey Parish Council
Linda Hughman	Honingham Parish Council
Roger Hughman	Honingham Parish Council
David Bishop	Honingham Parish Council
Louise Cooper	Ringland Parish Council
Jane Handford	Ringland Parish Council
Lindy Cooper	Ringland Parish Council
Peter Lambley	Lyng Parish Council
Camilla Davis	Lyng Parish Council
John Hurst	Morton-on-the-Hill Parish Council
Bill Horncastle	Elsing Parish Council
Susan Warren	Hockering Parish Council
David Goodman	Bawburgh Parish Council
Jimmy Richardson	Attlebridge Parish Council
Trevor Smith	Attlebridge Parish Council
Bob Barber	Felthorpe Parish Council
Bob Clarke	Felthorpe Parish Council
Tim Prail	Alderford, Little Witchingham & Swannington
Mike Smith	Alderford, Little Witchingham & Swannington
David Wildon	Marlingford & Colton Parish Council
Peter Milliken	Easton Parish Council
<b>Minute Taker:</b>	
Tenjoy D'Arcy	Assistant Transport Planner, Mouchel

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
	Attendance listed above
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
	DA introduced – confirming local knowledge is important. Individual meetings so far have been helpful and feedback in the presentation to follow reflects that. This project will be a lengthy process – and we need Parish Councillors to feedback what their communities think as the project goes forwards and we will feedback ongoing work. Lots of technical work going on, and we will communicate this keeping it as straightforward as possible to help with understanding and to help those using the information at their parish meetings.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Governance</b>
	TOR key activities read out – to be circulated again with minutes.
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Terms of Reference, Time &amp; venue, Attendance, Support Required</b>
	Chair happy for public to attend and observe meetings to give full transparency, although logistics in terms of room space need to be considered. This can be reviewed at future meetings. Wensum Valley Alliance not yet been invited, but will be invited to future meetings. Highways England to be invited to provide details of their planned dualling of the A47 from Easton to North Tuddenham. Taverham offered venue – it is planned to use a range of venues going forward but need to bear in mind capacity (see above re public attendance). Agreed 5:30pm was a good time for everyone going forward. It was agreed one representative per Parish Council to attend these meetings with a sub to be nominated. Water to be provided at future meetings.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Background &amp; Context within current schemes</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>NWL Timeline</b>
	County council wish to pursue a connection between A1067 and A47, reinforced by Full Council meeting resolution in December 2016 that the project be named as a key transport infrastructure priority. Member working group: Cllr Tim East, Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, Cllr Bill Borrett, Cllr James Joyce, Cllr Shelagh Gurney, Cllr Bert Bremner and Cllr Stuart Clancey – will feedback what comes out of those meetings and update them on these meetings. Mouchel have been carrying out work that was set out in a July 2016 committee report, and will be presenting this. Construction could start around 2023, if the case is made and the project is taken forward.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>NDR</b>
	NDR due to open in December 2017. Once opened will allow around 6 months for traffic to settle before monitoring traffic and reviewing the modelling to inform whether any further measures are required. Lower Easton, Lyng and Swannington raised monitoring queries and not been addressed – DA agreed to look into these.
<b>4.3</b>	<b>A47</b>
	A47 dualling proposal from Easton to North Tuddenham – Highways England have indicated they expect to consult on route options in mid-March, still with expected 2020 start of works. NCC will feedback on the possible options but will also need further discussion with HE when they develop their junction strategy. It was agreed that HE should be invited to a future meeting – possibly the next one in view of their forthcoming consultation.
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Food Hub</b>
	Broadland District Council are consulting on the Local Development Order (LDO) that will potentially enable delivery of the proposed Food Hub at Easton.

	<p>Easton PC rep raised that the scale of the food hub is being misrepresented and that it will be far bigger, up to 50-70 hectares. His view was that there is likely to be a legal challenge to the LDO and therefore it shouldn't be taken into account when considering the NWL. The results of the LDO consultation are expected to be taken to Broadland DC full council on 11<sup>th</sup> May.</p>
<b>4.5</b>	<b>Local Plan Consultations</b>
	<p>Early work in terms of call for lands already completed, and a formal consultation is planned for October 2017. Pre-submission application expected early 2019 with an examination in public in 2020.</p>
	<p>Questions raised on items above:</p> <p>Q. If we need to bring people from the above schemes, can we invite?</p> <p>A. Yes – requests can be arranged (HE being one of the first).</p> <p>Q. Where are we at with funding?</p> <p>A. We are at a very early stage with the project. We have funding for this early work, but will need to take a report to Committee in September to update on the project so far and seek further funding to continue the project. There is currently no identified funding for the construction of the project.</p> <p>Q. Are committee prepared to fund next stage and how will funding for project come about?</p> <p>A. NCC Full Council agreed a motion at its meeting in December 2016 agreeing the NWL is key transport infrastructure for the authority – it has strong support from Members. Funding could be from a variety of sources, such as the Department for Transport's Local Major Project Fund, however it would depend on whether funding is made available in the future and if a business case for a project meets DfT's assessment criteria.</p> <p>Q. Hornsey Cabling project – need to find suitable route and note that this scheme could impact on options for the NWL.</p> <p>A. Noted and details will be investigated.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Current Technical Work</b>
	<p>Q. Is it possible to have in advance of meeting?</p> <p>A. There will be times where papers can be circulated in advance if it is appropriate.</p>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Summary of Current Remit</b>
	<p>Presentation to be circulated</p>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Summary of findings from the individual consultations</b>
	<p>Presentation to be circulated</p>
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Discussion on objectives</b>
	<p>Strategic objectives (not weighted, all equal and not in any particular order):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree</li> <li>2. Agree but question raised as to whether it's opening green space up to more planning applications – JL highlighted <u>planned</u> housing, not generating new housing applications</li> <li>3. Agree – question raised as to whether this covers looking at public transport</li> <li>4. Agree</li> <li>5. Agree</li> <li>6. Agree</li> <li>7. Agree</li> </ol> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's the relationship between 12 of specific and 7 of strategic? Currently no specific objective that sets out that the environment will be protected and enhanced.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 - Too much emphasis on HGV's on minor roads and not other vehicles including growth of white vans – should be changed to commercial traffic.</li> <li>• 6 – Access to Queen's Hills should be sorted by NCC, not this group. Original application was for 130 houses, will be 2000 by completion. JL informed that brief was study of Norwich Western Quadrant so will look at all traffic problems across the whole study area and not just where to place NWL.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that all present would review the Specific Objectives at their parish/town council meetings and provide feedback at the next meeting. To be added as a specific agenda item.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Looking Forward</b>
	Suggested made to choose a subject to go into more detail on in future meetings, rather than lots of general details.
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Technical Work to EDT, September 2017</b>
	Presentation to be circulated
<b>6.2</b>	<b>NWL Long Term Programme</b>
	Presentation to be circulated
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
	<p>Q: At which stage do you decide which option to support?</p> <p>A: At a later stage we'll be recommending what the next steps are to decide on a possible route but that would follow on from a significant amount of consultation and more detailed route assessment work. The next steps, assuming the project continues, will be set out in the report to Committee in September this year.</p> <p>Q: Will County Council decide which route at EDT in September 2017?</p> <p>A: No. Mouchel will make a set of recommendations based on technical work done so there will still be several options to consider. The report in September will summarise what we've done over the 12 months (since July 2016) and give options for Members to consider on next steps for the project. This will be based on the feasibility and modelling that's been done.</p> <p>Q: When we talk about options are we talking about routes?</p> <p>A: We're considering everything that will resolve the scheme objectives, including things like existing traffic problems and environmental considerations. It will be important to consider all options that may be possible, including things like public transport and improved walking &amp; cycling routes. We would hope to have decisions made early 2019.</p> <p>Q: At what point on timeline will we know about roundabouts on A47?</p> <p>A: March 2017 will see the initial consultation on the A47 by Highways England, however this will probably focus on a preferred route rather than junction details. They will deal with existing issues and problems and will have their own scheme objectives. The NWL project is not defined enough at this stage so cannot be fully considered or included in the A47 proposals at this stage. We will look at options they give in terms of route alignment and junction strategy but we're not yet at that stage. We can bring A47 proposal to next meeting for further discussion.</p> <p>Q: Wood Lane, Honningham – traffic can go both ways. When busy, traffic turning right to go to King's Lynn is very dangerous. Is there any way we can consider making it a left-turn only?</p> <p>A: JL proposed meeting 1-2-1 with PC. DA mentioned a signing review is underway and the routing of HGV's north of Hockering, linking to the A47 via an existing over-bridge at North Tuddenham.</p> <p>Comment on above: Took 30 years to get HGV's out of Hockering – DA advised wouldn't be directing through, signposting is via an alternative route.</p>

	<p>Q: Based on assumption NWL goes ahead, could data from King's Lynn to Norwich be collected to inform the project as to whether people are more likely to go northern or southern?</p> <p>A: Modelling is based on data using surveys on people's origin and destination data. John Pennells comment: Considered that it will be shorter to go via northern route as opposed to using the Southern bypass to get round Norwich.</p> <p>Other points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are respective local interests and preference to protect rural areas but need also to support each other as roads need to be built to resolve traffic problems.</li> <li>• Weight restrictions on existing bridges are ignored by HGV's.</li> </ul>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>AOB</b>
	<p>Discussion around best way to communicate documents – will look into file sharing sites. John Pennells requested a dot be put after attachment name as unable to open files. Everything will be emailed for now and a suggested file sharing point will be provided at the next meeting.</p>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Close of Meeting</b>