

# Minutes A27 Arundel Bypass Scheme

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>A27 Arundel Elected Representatives Forum</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	20 July 2021	<b>Time:</b>	19:00-21:00
		<b>Location:</b>	MS Teams Meeting

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Sandra Fryer – Independent Chair  
Gary Markwell – West Sussex County Council (WSSCC)  
Trevor Bence – West Sussex County Council  
Joy Dennis – West Sussex County Council  
Shaun Gunner – Arun District Council (ADC)  
Grant Roberts – Arun District Council  
Faye Catterson – Arun District Council  
Josh Funnell – Andrew Griffith MP’s office  
Jan Rees – Slindon Parish Council  
Sarah Linfield – Slindon Parish Council  
Andrew Ratcliffe – Walberton Parish Council  
Andrew Titmus – Walberton Parish Council  
Tim Burr – South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)  
Alun Alesbury – South Downs National Park Authority

**Attendees:** Tony Hunt – Arundel Town Council  
Angela Standing – Arundel Town Council  
Sam Langmead – Lyminster and Crossbush  
Andrew Jackson – Highways England  
[REDACTED] – Highways England  
[REDACTED] – Highways England  
[REDACTED] – Highways England  
[REDACTED] – Highways England  
Mark Hepburn – Linkconnex  
[REDACTED] – Linkconnex

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**Observers:** Vicki Colwell – SDNPA  
Darryl Hemmings – West Sussex County Council  
Roger Spencer – Arun District Council

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**Apologies:** Suzanne Clark – Walberton Parish Council  
Andy Vawyer – Walberton Parish Council  
Paul Dendle – Arun District Council  
Peter Fenton – Slindon Parish Council  
Robin Parr – SDNPA  
Andrew Griffith MP  
[REDACTED] – Linkconnex

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██████████ – Linkconnex

**Circulation list:** Attendees plus apologies

**Meeting Organiser:** ██████████ – Highways England

DISCUSSION POINTS		
No.	Item	Action <i>(By whom, by when)</i>
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
	The Independent Chair welcomed attendees.	
2.	<b>Wellbeing moment</b>	
	The Forum was updated on the various ways to stay cool at home in the heat and how to self-isolate safely, as outlined in Public Health England’s Heatwave Plan for England <sup>1</sup> .	
3.	<b>Minutes from the previous Forum</b>	
	The minutes from the previous Forum were agreed.	
4.	<b>Actions from the last meeting</b>	
	The sole action from the last meeting was to discuss traffic modelling and feasibility options for Ford Road junction within A27 Scheme or at a later time. This is covered under agenda item 9.	
5.	<b>General update since the May forum</b>	
	The Forum was informed that the scheme is currently at design freeze. This is one of many such freezes within the scheme which will allow for traffic modelling and other environmental studies to be produced to inform statutory consultation.	
	Information gathering is currently taking place. Ground Investigation surveys are underway on site, archaeological surveys are due to take place in the coming weeks, and environmental surveys are continuing.	
	Ongoing engagement is taking place with priority stakeholders (domestic landowners, statutory bodies and agricultural and commercial landowners).	
6.	<b>Statement of Community Consultation</b>	
	The Forum was informed that there is not a confirmed date yet for statutory consultation however it is likely to take place in Autumn 2021. Once the statutory consultation dates are confirmed, the formal 28-day consultation required under the Statement of Community Consultation will be able to take place. The purpose of this ‘consultation on a consultation’ is to consult the host authorities (SDNPA, ADC and WSCC) on how Highways England and Linkconnex intends to undertake the statutory consultation later in the year.	

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england>

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<b>7.</b>	<b>Technical update – Design Freeze</b>	
	The Forum was told that the major aspects of the vertical and horizontal alignment has now been ‘frozen’ to inform Statutory Consultation preparation. Work is continuing on refinement and developing the detailed design assessment, appearance and landscaping, and will continue up until Statutory Consultation.	
	The Forum was informed that indicative mitigation measures will be developed for the statutory consultation and will be consulted on.	
	The Forum was taken through a run through of the scheme from west to east, explaining where changes are expected to be made to the alignment published at the Preferred Route Announcement in October 2020, and an explanation of the improvements the project team is seeking to achieve in the preliminary design.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Technical update – Green Bridges</b>	
	The Environment lead at Linkconnex explained to the Forum why green bridges are required and what a green bridge might look like within the scheme. The concept of a multi-functional green bridge, combining public rights of way and local access, was outlined. Green bridges are proposed at Binsted and Tortington Lane.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Ford Road Junction and traffic modelling</b>	
	AJ confirmed that whilst a junction at Ford Road was not within the scope of the scheme, work was underway to explore how a junction could potentially be incorporated into the design and delivered at a later date. The Forum was provided with a summary of the work Linkconnex and Highways England were doing with ADC and WSCC officers and elected representatives surrounding a potential junction at Ford Road.	
	In terms of transport modelling assumptions, the Forum was told that the list of developments that feed in to the modelling has been agreed with ADC officers and the overall scale of development planned in the area has been adequately accommodated in the model.	
	The Linkconnex design team has developed a provisional junction layout and is working up rough costs in order to inform next steps. AJ confirmed that there is a cost associated with not precluding a junction, and further cost associated with building the junction. HE, ADC and WSCC will need to work together and different funding solutions will need to be looked into.	
	AJ explained that whilst Highways England is not yet able to confirm that it cannot preclude a future junction, this remains the goal it is working towards.	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Opportunities beyond the scope of the scheme</b>	
	AJ explained to the Forum that HE and Linkconnex were aware of a number of opportunities to deliver wider enhancements in the local area that were beyond the scope of the scheme, and outlined that the Forum must work together with HE and LCX to consider funding sources such as Designated Funds (HE), contributions from housing developments, contributions from WSCC and ADC, and contributions from third parties. AJ	

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	requested that additional opportunities should be communicated to HE via the Forum or Focus Group meetings.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Programme</b>	
	The Forum was informed that the programme has not changed since the previous Elected Reps Forum in May.	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
	<p>The next Elected Reps Forum is proposed to take place Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 19:00-21:00. A discussion took place as to whether this should take place virtually / in-person or via a hybrid approach.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> MDB to ask Forum members whether they would prefer the next meeting to be virtual, face-to-face or a hybrid meeting.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> HE will decide the format of the next meeting based on feedback received from Forum members as well as the latest government guidance and HE and Linkconnex Safety, Health and Environment policies.</p>	<b>MDB 6/8/21</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Questions</b>	
	Andrew Titmus noted that options were being investigated at the Fontwell end of the A27, and asked when the design team would discuss these with Walberton Parish Council. AJ confirmed that this would be discussed at a meeting between HE, LCX and WPC on 30 <sup>th</sup> July.	
	Trevor Bence asked a question about Ford Road Junction's ability to reduce rat running through Yapton and Walberton, commenting that 4,500 new dwellings to the south would be travelling westwards onto the A27 through Walberton village without this. RH explained that the design team is sensitive to rat running issues and have done a lot of work on this in the transport modelling and as such have a reasonable understanding of the issue. AF added that there are several locations where rat running issues have been identified in the modelling and this has subsequently informed the design. Tye Lane and Yapton Lane have been modelled.	
	Grant Roberts paid tribute to the A27 project team for the early engagement on the design and commented that the concerns from elected representatives are being listened to by HE and LCX. Cllr Roberts however remained very concerned about Ford Road Junction saying that it is imperative for infrastructure-led development in the area, and would like to engage further with HE and WSCC to progress this.	
	It was requested that at the Walberton Parish Council meeting on Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> July that more detail needs to be provided regarding community engagement, including what physical exhibitions will take place as part of statutory consultation.	
	The Chair closed the meeting.	

## NEXT MEETING

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Time:</b>	19:00-21:00	<b>Location:</b>	TBC
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