

A5036

Port of Liverpool access

Newsletter 3 – June 2016

Improving access to the Port of Liverpool

This is our third newsletter designed to keep you informed as the scheme progresses

What are we doing?

We are developing and assessing how to improve road access to the Port of Liverpool. It is still too early to identify specific proposals but we are continuing to look at two possible options:

- **Option 1** - Upgrade the existing road, looking specifically at the operation of four key junctions – Hawthorne Road; Netherton Way, Park Lane

and Copy Lane. We call this the online option

- **Option 2** - Build a new road through Rimrose Valley linking to the Broom's Cross Road. We call this the offline option.

This map includes more information than we have been able to release before. We want to show you how our proposals are developing, however please note that in relation to both options, this plan shows our current, indicative alignments and these may change.

Towards the end of this year we expect to be in a position to present our outline plans and proposals to members of the public, at what is known as 'preferred route consultation'. This will be your opportunity to discuss with us the options we are proposing, as well as those that we have dismissed. Ultimately, the decision on what will be chosen as our preferred route will be made by the Secretary of State for Transport after considering the public's view and our recommendations.

Feedback from 'Meet the Team' events

Since our last newsletter, we organised 6 'Meet the Team' events held throughout Sefton. Nearly 450 people came to meet us and to find out more about the scheme. Our information panels were also left on public display at Crosby Library for an additional 8 weeks and a further 150 people visited the library to view them. The team was also invited to Asda, Aintree and Tesco, Litherland to hand out newsletters to shoppers and answer their questions.





Thank you to everyone who came along to one of these events; it was very useful to meet you and to answer your individual questions. More importantly, it gave us the opportunity to understand your concerns and worries.

One of our main aims when we organise these events is to raise awareness of the scheme in local communities. These sessions are just the start and we'll continue to keep you informed throughout the life of the project.

Frequently asked questions

During our 'Meet the Team' events there were a number of questions and issues that were regularly asked.

Q: Why isn't greater use being made of the railway network in order to distribute this additional freight?

A: We have been asked by the government to look specifically at improving the road access to the Port of Liverpool. Improvements to the rail network are being considered elsewhere. Our roads based proposal is part of a wider set of proposals across Merseyside and the North West which includes upgrades to the local and strategic rail network. Information on this and all the proposals can be found at www.liverpoollep.org

The assessment of a modal shift of freight traffic from road onto rail and inland shipping (using the Manchester Ship canal) is part of our ongoing traffic forecasting work. However, our initial findings indicate that, even with an ambitious transfer onto rail, improvements to the road network will still be necessary.

Q: Why can't the disused railway line be used as either a freight rail link or as a modified road link?

A: Although the North Mersey Branch line is disused it is not formally closed. Proposals to upgrade this line for passenger services were included in Merseytravel's recent 'Liverpool City Region Long Term Rail' strategy. Sefton MBC's draft Local Plan also refers to safe-guarding the disused rail link for long term future passenger services use.

Q: Why is Highways England not able to provide detailed information and designs?

A: The purpose behind these events was to raise awareness of the scheme, discuss our initial proposals and our progress to date and give an indication of future timescales.

This scheme is at a very early stage and the more detailed information and designs are still being developed. However, when we come out to consult with you on what will be the preferred route, this information will be available.

Q: What is being done to protect biodiversity and green spaces?

A: Biodiversity forms one of the key parts of the assessment process for any road scheme. In doing this, we undertook a comprehensive desk study and an extended habitat survey of the area. This identified a number of potential biodiversity constraints and we have started an extensive programme of ecological surveys to investigate habitats and to determine if any protected species are present.

The information we gather from these surveys will be used to assess the potential impacts of any development and, where necessary, develop plans to mitigate these impacts. We will also look for opportunities to identify where enhancements to biodiversity can be made.

We also understand the importance of these green spaces to the Rimrose Valley's many users. Where any public open space is lost we will provide suitable replacement land.

All these proposals will form part of our public consultation and, if the offline option is selected as the preferred route, we would welcome everyone's view on how they would like the area to look once the scheme is complete.

Q: What is being done to address air quality issues?

A: Over the past year we have completed air quality monitoring in the area of the proposed scheme and the roads affected by it; this will be used to supplement the existing local authority information.

We will build an air quality model using the traffic forecasting which has been developed following the completion of traffic surveys. This model will

enable us to assess the impacts that each of the options may have and help us to identify changes to our design to ensure it does not have a significant adverse impact on air quality.

Q: What is being done to address noise issues?

A: We have completed noise surveys both along the existing A5036 and within the Rimrose Valley and will be modelling forecast noise levels for each of the options. We understand the impact increased noise may have on people and, as part of our assessment, will use this modelling to help develop plans to reduce the forecast noise levels.

Q: Why hasn't there been greater publicity to advertise these events and the scheme?

A: Information about our events was circulated widely using a variety of methods – press releases, radio interview, emails and posters. Newsletter 2 which promoted the 'Meet the Team' sessions was emailed and posted out to thousands of recipients including local MP's, Councillors, Parish Councils, libraries, public buildings, charities and local businesses to name a few. We also used social media such as Facebook and Twitter as well as the scheme's web page to advertise the events.

We were very pleased by the number of local residents that attended our events and we made the most of this opportunity to ask for postal and email addresses to add to our newsletter distribution list. We are committed to ensuring that as many people as possible are kept up to date about the scheme as it develops. If you would like to receive a number of hardcopies of this newsletter to distribute amongst neighbours, colleagues, customers etc. please email the team (see the 'Contact us' section for details) and we will be more than happy to send you as many as you need.



If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

Progress so far

During the summer months you may see our contractors carrying out a number of surveys on both the online and offline options. The information that we collate will form part of our environment assessment.

Surveys on the online option will include a basic bat activity survey; a bat survey of the structures that are crossed by the road (such as the canal bridges); a great crested newt survey of the ponds within the golf course; breeding bird surveys; and an otter and water vole survey of the canal.

Surveys on the offline route will include bat activity surveys (these will not be completed until May 2017 due to the area having higher habitat suitability), a bat presence/absence survey of the trees, great crested newt survey of the ponds within Rimrose Valley, a full breeding bird survey, a reptile survey and an otter and water vole survey.



We will undertake otter and water vole surveys

Borehole update – last year we completed an initial ground investigation survey within the Rimrose Valley which included sampling materials from a number

of boreholes within the park. These boreholes were left with equipment inside to continue monitoring water levels. Since we completed our initial samples we have been contacted by a number of park users over concerns that one of the boreholes had flooded. To resolve this we have decommissioned this particular borehole – you may have seen our contractors in the park removing the equipment and the borehole casing and backfilling the hole.

Ministerial visit

On the 16th May we were pleased to welcome the Roads Minister, the Honourable Andrew Jones MP on a visit to the A5036 and Rimrose Valley. The Minister was keen to understand the issues relating to the scheme; he was accompanied along the A5036 by members of the project team where we took the opportunity to stop at each of the four junctions. This was then followed by a tour of the Rimrose Valley.

Did you know?

You can sign up for email alerts via the scheme's web page – every time the page is updated you will be sent an alert.

Contact us

For general enquiries about this scheme or to receive electronic versions of this and future leaflets, contact the Highways England project team via our email address: **A5036PortofLiverpool@highwaysengland.co.uk**

Alternatively call the team on **0300 470 6105** or visit our website for more information about the scheme and to register for email alerts whenever changes are made: **www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a5036-port-of-liverpool-access**

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