

Lower Thames Crossing (LTC)

## CLG South – meeting 1 notes

**Date:** Monday 13 July

**Time:** 6:30-8:30pm

**Venue:** LTC South Compound (Marling Cross), Gravesend, DA12 5UF

| Attendees                                                |                                                                           |                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Community                                                | Title                                                                     | Initials                                                     |
| Bob Lane                                                 | CLG Chair                                                                 | BL                                                           |
| Susan Lindley                                            | Shorne Parish Council                                                     | SL                                                           |
| Cllr Leslie Hills                                        | Chalk Ward                                                                | LH                                                           |
| Cllr Derek Ashenden                                      | Riverview Park Ward                                                       | DA                                                           |
| Cllr Arron Elliott                                       | Riverview Park Ward                                                       | AE                                                           |
| Local Authority                                          | Title                                                                     | Initials                                                     |
| Joe Ratcliffe                                            | Transport Strategy Manager for Kent County Council (KCC)                  | JR                                                           |
| Deborah Croxton                                          | Cabinet Member for Communities for Gravesham                              | DC                                                           |
| Virginie Whittaker                                       | Head of Community Involvement for Gravesham                               | VW                                                           |
| Richard Dickenson                                        | Chairman of Gravesham Rights of Way Committee                             | RD                                                           |
| Lower Thames Crossing                                    | Title                                                                     | Initials                                                     |
| Charley Whitelock                                        | Community Lead for LTC                                                    | CW                                                           |
| Charl De Kock                                            | Project Technical Director for Skanska – Kent Roads                       | CDK                                                          |
| Lewis Moss                                               | Sub Agent for Skanska – Kent Roads                                        | LM                                                           |
| Emma Gaydon                                              | Community, Engagement & Communications Manager for Skanska – Kent Roads   | EG                                                           |
| Dominic Barlow                                           | Senior Project Manager for Bouygues Murphy joint venture (BMjv) – Tunnels | DB                                                           |
| Katrien Goossens                                         | Communities Lead for BMjv - Tunnels                                       | KG                                                           |
| Apologies                                                |                                                                           |                                                              |
| Alan Price, Technical Director for BMjv - Tunnels        |                                                                           | Anita Tysoe, Communities Directorate for Gravesham           |
| Cllr Lenny Rolles and Cllr Karina O'Malley for Westcourt |                                                                           | Cllr Georgia Foster and Cllr Gary Sturley for Gravesend East |

| Meeting notes and actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Action owner | Status |
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| Welcome and introduction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |              |        |
| 1. BL provided welcome and round-table introductions from all attendees.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | N/A          | N/A    |
| Agree CLG Terms of Reference (ToR)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |              |        |
| 2. BL summarised the ToR, pointing out that we are not here to reopen the DCO; the project has been examined by the Planning Inspectorate, and the Government has given its consent. The role of the CLG is to identify the potential impacts on the community during construction, to work together to agree what can be done to avoid, manage, or mitigate these impacts, and how this can best be communicated to the communities affected. The ToR were agreed. | N/A          | N/A    |
| 3. AE asked if there's an urgent issue between CLG meetings then how should it be raised.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | N/A          | N/A    |
| 4. BL confirmed councillors have other avenues for raising concerns within the project, but alternatively they can contact him as the Chair if needed. LTC customer contact centre also available for raising concerns over phone or email.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |        |
| Lower Thames Crossing project update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |              |        |
| 5. CW provided a high level overview on works happening across the full LTC route, progress on private investment to fund the project, and new road opening timescales between early to mid 2030s. CW also mentioned the interactive map on the project website as a current, work-in-progress way of showing where works are happening across the route.                                                                                                           | N/A          | N/A    |
| Kent Roads update by Skanska                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |              |        |
| Introduction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | N/A          | N/A    |
| 6. CDK intro included an overview on habitat creation work on land to the east of Thong village.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |              |        |
| 7. AE asked for more information on the habitat creation area and how it is fit for purpose. CDK explained ecology surveys continue to inform and refine the design to ensure it's suitable for the relevant local ecology, including Great Crested Newt (GCN) considerations, and that the area includes grassland, ponds, orchard planting and tree planting.                                                                                                     |              |        |
| 8. BL asked whether the land east of Thong would be accessible to the public. CDK explained some elements, such as an orchard area and benches, may be accessible, but fencing would remain where needed to manage safety and ecological protection.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |              |        |
| Kent Roads scope                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | N/A          | N/A    |

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| 9. CDK gave an overview of the scope, including a major interchange, significant earthworks, utilities diversion and multiple major structures. This included a current view image including the A2 looking north towards the Thames, followed by the same area once the LTC is built.<br>10. LH noted revisions to the design south of the A2 over the years, including a reduction in the number of roundabouts, and had been told it was due to increasing capacity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                         |             |
| <b>Land and logistics</b><br>11. CDK talked through different work areas and compounds / main welfare areas.<br>12. AE asked what the new concrete area is off Thong Lane. CDK advised that it is the vehicle crossing for construction traffic between the NGT west/A2 site to NGT east works areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | N/A                                                                                                                                     | N/A         |
| <b>So far this year</b><br>13. CDK talked through progress this year, including surveys, vehicle access and crossings, completion of the new habitat creation and preparatory works for the upcoming National Gas Transmission (NGT) diversion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | N/A                                                                                                                                     | N/A         |
| <b>6 month look ahead</b><br>14. CDK provided overview of works planned over the next 6 months.<br>15. SL asked about design changes and deviations from the DCO. CDK explained that changes are constrained by limits of deviation and that anything outside those limits would require a formal process. Changes affecting the traffic model or environmental modelling would not be compliant unless handled through the required process.<br>16. AE commented that previously the LTC had said that local tree planting (particularly south of Astra Drive and the cul-de-sacs off Vigilant Way) would be carried out early in the project to ensure maturity and to provide visual mitigation for the community. <b>Action.</b> | <b>(16) CDK to investigate and provide more information on tree planting plans as part of local mitigation around A2 site boundary.</b> | <b>Open</b> |
| <b>Early work for SGN diversion - A2/Shorne Woods Country Park</b><br>17. CDK provided an overview of works to relocate an existing bat bunker that will be impacted by future works to divert an existing gas main.<br>18. CDK provided overview of early work to relocate great crested newts and other reptiles ahead of utility diversion works next year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | N/A                                                                                                                                     | N/A         |
| <b>National Gas Transmission (NGT) diversion</b><br>19. CDK provided an overview on upcoming work to divert and lower an existing national gas pipeline below the LTC between the A2 and Rochester Road.<br>20. DA asked if Thong Lane will be impacted. CDK explained that the shaft work is on the NGT west land (west of Thong Lane), but there may be short periods where work will be needed impacting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | N/A                                                                                                                                     | N/A         |

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| <p>Thong Lane, where possible it will be done at night. There will also be daytime traffic lights during working hours for the vehicle crossing between NGT west and east (either side of Thong Lane).</p> <p>21. BL asked where the NGT compound would be and CDK confirmed they are making use of the former Baylis building / area.</p> <p>22. EG spoke through NGT timescales and mitigation, including best practice measure learnings from High Speed 2 (HS2), such as appropriate lighting with less glare for any night works, and that they will ensure appropriate notice and communication ahead of any potentially disruptive NGT work.</p> <p>23. Other mitigation noted included screening bunds, planting, generator placement, lighting control and multi-channelled community engagement ahead of 24-hour working for example.</p> <p>24. Skanska advised that an NGT representative will be at the next meeting to provide more details.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                          |      |
| <b>Tunnels works progress for Bouygues Murphy joint venture</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                          |      |
| <b>Introduction</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | N/A                                                                                                                                      | N/A  |
| 25. DB and KG provided introduction.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                          |      |
| <b>Tunnels and Approaches scope</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | (28) DB / KG to provide more information on work near Chalk, including natural drainage and how they will be protecting the Ramsar site. | Open |
| <p>26. DB provided an overview of the scope of works, including twin-bore tunnels, approach roads, portals and cross passages, along with artist impressions of both the works area now and once the LTC is operational.</p> <p>27. BL asked what the works were in the artist impression adjacent to Chalk, and queried whether the ground treatment tunnel would still be needed.</p> <p>28. DB explained that the tunnel boring machine (TBM) will be specialist variable density machine suited for these ground conditions, eliminating the need for the ground treatment tunnel. DB explained that there is likely to be some drainage work near Chalk. KG noted that the artist impression is from an older design with provides a good visual of the site layout, but is not always the end result. BL requested clearer information on the drainage plans. <b>Action.</b></p> <p>29. BMjv also explained the approach of using one tunnel boring machine from the north side, turning it around and boring back, which is a design and environmental saving compared with setting up major operations on both sides. The spoil and segment logistics will be largely focused on the north side, reducing impacts on the south side.</p> <p>30. SL asked if there is any interaction with the National Grid cable tunnel between Gravesend and Tilbury. DB advised that the National Grid works should be finished before BMjv start tunnelling, and that they are in different locations.</p> | <p>(31) CW to provide update on status of recreational land after construction of LTC.</p>                                               | Open |

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| 31. AE asked about land use once the new road is built. CW confirmed that some land will be re-turned to agricultural use, and some land will be available for recreational use. Earlier proposals included a smaller golf course, but this has not been the case for some time. The final use is still undetermined and a matter with Gravesham Borough Council. <b>Action.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                      |                  |
| <b>Overnight utility surveys</b><br>32. DB talked through upcoming ground penetrating radar walkover surveys that will be taking place soon locally, but very low level and short duration work not anticipated to cause disruptions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                  | N/A              |
| <b>2027 look ahead / milestones</b><br>33. BMJV outlined the Southern Tunnel Entrance site layout, including the compound being located as far as possible from residential properties and most of the work to the west, near Thong Lane, being the re-use of excavated ground materials to build Chalk Park.<br>34. DB explained that there will likely be further archaeology work and that they will begin setting up the site in spring to summer. He also spoke through the layout of the site.<br>35. LH asked about power supply routes and substations that were previously proposed near Chalk. BL understood that the main tunnels power supply would be fed from Northfleet East substation via the A2. <b>Action.</b><br>36. LH asked how much of the tunnels area will be Chalk Park with concerns of future use of some of the land. CW understands that some of the land will be going back to the landowner. <b>Action.</b><br>37. KG spoke about the work they are doing at their northern sites using low carbon methods of construction, including hydrogen, which will also be utilised in Kent. | (35) DB / BMjv to provide information on power supply routes and location of substations.<br><br>(36) DB/CW to provide update on Chalk Park land and areas to go back to landowners. | Open<br><br>Open |
| <b>Archaeology</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                      |                  |
| 38. DB provided an overview of the current archaeology works that's been happening in the future tunnels works area, as well as ecology surveys here and in the wider area.<br>39. DB talked through finds to date, including a Bronze Age ring ditch, an Iron Age pit, a complete vessel, a Roman brooch and Roman ditches.<br>40. BL asked what happens to archaeology finds. AE/other participants asked whether the finds could be put on display locally such as at Cascades or Gravesham Library, or generally accessible to the Gravesham community where possible.<br>41. DB and KG hope to display items locally, but in some cases finds belong to landowners. It was also noted that finds tend to go through around 12 months of lab testing. <b>Action.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | (41) BMjv / Skanska to provide relevant update on archaeology finds next steps once known.                                                                                           | Open             |

| Vehicle routes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                            |      |
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| 42.DB outlined the approved traffic routes to their southern tunnel entrance site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | (44) BMjv / Skanska to consider road signage for Shorne to prevent drivers driving through village                                         | Open |
| 43.BL queried why Shorne village was not listed as prohibited to LTC traffic and requested that it is.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                            |      |
| 44.CW explained that the prohibited routes are based on the DCO, but Shorne has a history of concerns that LTC is aware of and Shorne is listed as a location not to drive through in driver briefing packs etc. BL requested appropriate signage. <b>Action.</b>                                                 |                                                                                                                                            |      |
| 45.BL advised that the A226 is a busy road and that Shorne Crossroads is a known accident hotspot with a recent fatality. He is aware that KCC is considering safety improvements, and suggested that LTC ought to liaise with KCC to support their safety improvements as part of LTC mitigation. <b>Action.</b> | (45) BMjv / Skanska to consider Shorne Crossroads safety mitigation                                                                        | Open |
| 46.DA raised concerns of people being impacted during funerals at the local crematorium.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | (51) BMjv/Skanska to provide a map of haul roads at the next meeting.                                                                      | Open |
| 47.AE explained that residents have memory of being told that Thong Lane would not be used for construction traffic and there's a concern of a lack of honesty.                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                            |      |
| 48.DC raised concerns of Thong Lane not being suitable for HGVs, especially due to parking on both sides of the road, and public safety concerns due to the local school.                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                            |      |
| 49.It was clarified that some early routes are needed before site access points and haul roads are built, but the intention is to reduce local road use as quickly as possible.                                                                                                                                   | (53) BMjv / Skanska to provide details of logistics management and mitigation (including any restrictions relating to Thames view School). | Open |
| 50.CDK and CW spoke about how the A2 site access is already in use where possible, and that once the internal haul roads are complete, it will be the main access into site, planned for late 2026.                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                            |      |
| 51.BL asked for a future slide clearly depicting the haul roads from the A226 and the A2. <b>Action.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                            |      |
| 52.BL asked if Thong Lane will be a secondary access during main construction. CDK confirmed that Thong Lane will not be a secondary access during main construction.                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                            |      |
| 53.DB, CDK and CW talked about management measures for construction traffic, including live tracking, scheduling deliveries and ANPR monitoring. <b>Action.</b>                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                            |      |
| 54.JR explained that all routes are agreed within the Transport Management Forum, including Thong Lane being used for early work only.                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                            |      |
| Impacts to Public Rights of Way (PRoW)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                            |      |
| 55.DB explained that access has been maintained on all routes via the future southern tunnel entrance site, including NG8 through the former Southern Valley Golf Club land which has safety barriers for public safety, and NG7.                                                                                 | (58) CDK to provide clarity on NS167 diversion - could it be around the northern                                                           | Open |

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| <p>56. CDK talked through the current closure of the NS169 and diversion route, and the upcoming closure of the NS167 and proposed diversion. BL welcomed the amendments made by Skanska on the diversion route for the NS169 closure, providing a much improved route for the community.</p> <p>57. SL noted that the planned closure of NS167 cuts off local access to Shorne Woods Country Park.</p> <p>58. BL asked if a route around the northern edge of the site west of Thong Lane would be possible. CDK said he would investigate. <b>Action.</b></p> <p>59. RD raised concerns on the quality of maps showing diversion routes on LTC website and KCC. Especially that the LTC online maps are hard to understand because it uses colours, symbols and technical drawing conventions that differ from Ordnance Survey or Kent County Council mapping familiar to the public.</p> <p>60. Several participants asked for earlier and clearer notification of closures, fencing, barriers and diversions.</p> <p>61. CW explained that there are improvements to be made to show the construction related impacts on the LTC interactive map, including better alignment to existing maps, and that more could be done locally to ensure clear communication, such as signage or notice boards. <b>Action.</b></p>                                                       | <p>edge and improved access to country park.</p> <p>(61) CW / EG to review current information on LTC and KCC maps and improve accessibility in-line with typical PRow maps, as well as ensure local signage is suitable and user friendly.</p>                                |                                     |
| <b>Community feedback</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                     |
| <p>62. DA explained his perspective that promises have been made and broken, but the last community events were very good and there was a lot of value having the model there, but was very busy.</p> <p>63. AE raised that lighting is a big concern and ensuring that it is as unintrusive as possible and still allows residents to enjoy dark skies. EG explained that it's something Skanska are looking into now and she knows from previous experience on HS2 how big of a concern this can be. CDK also noted that nighttime lighting will only be used when necessary. EG noted types of lighting for walkways to reduce glare. <b>Action.</b></p> <p>64. DA noted that providing an offset for boundary fencing would be positively received. DB noted that it was a good suggestion for site set up.</p> <p>65. LH would like simplified summary of matters raised during these meetings and actions, and that the session has been useful. CW explained that minutes and actions will be shared within two weeks of each meeting with attendees and published on the LTC website.</p> <p>66. DA asked if traffic management and construction traffic is considered in traffic modelling. <b>Action.</b></p> <p>67. SL asked when the ESSO garage will be closed south of the A2. CDK said he wasn't sure but work south of the A2 is due to start mid next year.</p> | <p>(63) BMjv / Skanska to provide more information on site lighting at future meetings.</p> <p>(66) LTC / BMjv / Skanska to confirm if traffic modelling is considered with construction traffic and traffic management.</p> <p>(68) CW to follow-up with VW for utilising</p> | <p>Open</p> <p>Open</p> <p>Open</p> |

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| 68. VW noted that they have a platform for communicating with Gravesham residents that can be used for communicating LTC work. <b>Action.</b>                                                                                                                                                                               | the Gravesham community engagement platform.                                           |      |
| 69. DC suggested that Singlewell will be good to be represented at future meetings. CW explained that other ward areas will be invited ahead of key work, such as impacting the A2.                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                        |      |
| 70. DC asked how Jeskyns Community Woodland is going to be impacted. CDK explained that the NC177 cycleway will be diverted through it.                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                        |      |
| 71. AE asked that PRoW fencing is made as wide as possible, and commented that the meeting has been a good start for information quality.                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                        |      |
| Planned communications and engagement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                        |      |
| 72. EG talked through past and upcoming engagement plans with community, including monthly drop-ins and events at Shorne Woods Country Park, as well as a localised mailing list coming soon. BL requested that this is coordinated with BMjv and other parties – communities only see the LTC, not individual work scopes. | (74) EG to follow-up with members on drop-in dates for sharing through their channels. | Open |
| 73. CW noted that the March survey had shown email as the preferred channel for receiving information, and that the majority of survey users were interested in a variety of topics, including general updates, construction in their area and wider community.                                                             |                                                                                        |      |
| 74. CLG members were asked to help publicise drop-ins and future localised communication channels until the mailing lists are established. <b>Action.</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                        |      |
| Items for future meetings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                        |      |
| 75. Actions to be updated on where possible. BL noted that at this early stage of the project, the main community concerns relate to PRoWs, construction traffic routes, and NGT diversions, and we should address these issues in a coordinated manner.                                                                    | N/A                                                                                    | N/A  |
| Date of next meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                        |      |
| 76. Next meeting agreed for Monday 12 October                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | N/A                                                                                    | N/A  |