

Lower Thames Crossing (LTC)

CLG South – meeting 2 notes

Date: Monday 12 October 2026

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
Elizabeth Jeffrey	Gravesham Rights of Way Secretary	EJ
Cllr Gary Sturley	Gravesend East Ward	GS
Cllr Leslie Pearton	Higham Ward	LP
Cllr Debbie Wright	Higham Parish Council	DW
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
Lower Thames Crossing	Title	Initials
Charley Whitelock	Community Lead for LTC	CW
Eva Simunovic	Community Manager for LTC	ES
Charl De Kock	Project Technical Director for Skanska – Kent Roads	CDK
Tim Ovington	Project Manager for Skanska – Kent Roads	TO
Louis De Frescheville	Deputy Technical Director for Bouygues Murphy joint venture (BMJV) – Tunnels	LDF
Phil Price	Logistics Manager for BMJV – Tunnels	PP

Dave Smith	Communities Lead for BMjv - Tunnels	DS
Apologies		
Richard Dickenson, Chairman of Gravesham Rights of Way Committee	Cllr Lenny Rolles or Karina O'Malley for Westcourt	
Emma Gaydon, Community Manager for Skanska – Kent Roads		

Actions log from July 2026 meeting		Action owner	Status
1.	(16) CDK to investigate and provide more information on tree planting plans as part of local mitigation around A2 site boundary. Slide 3 - Environmental mitigation works are required for ancient woodland planting around western and northern edge of A2 site. Where possible. ancient woodland soil translocation is starting soon in some locations (slide 12). Includes planting root balls from Claylane Wood. Some tree planting may follow, likely after National Gas Transmission (NGT) work.	Skanska	Closed
2.	(28) DB / KG to provide more information on work near Chalk, including natural drainage and how they will be protecting the Ramsar site. Slide 4 – LDF confirmed that all wastewater management will now be on site via attenuation and filtration ponds on the southern tunnel entrance site. Previously there was consideration for discharge via the Ramsar site to the Thames, but BMJV have discussed it with Natural England and have found this alternative solution. He also confirmed that none of the previous ground treatment works (north of the A226) are currently planned. Design changes have reduced the need, including lowering the tunnel slightly away from the Ramsar site and having a specialist Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM).	BMJV	Closed
3.	(31) CW to provide update on status of recreational land after construction of LTC. Gravesham Borough Council is the key contact for this but we're aware it's still under consideration and that football nets are being considered instead of the previous golf facilities.	LTC	Closed
4.	(35) DB / BMjv to provide information on power supply routes and location of substations.	BMJV	Closed

	Slide 5 - LDF talked through the locations of substations that will all be located within the southern tunnel entrance site, and that the power supply route is via the NCN 177 cycleway before heading north towards site.		
5.	(36) DB/CW to provide update on Chalk Park land and areas to go back to landowners. Slide 8 – LDF talked through a map showing the permanent land required by the project, including Chalk Park (pink) and the area for temporary possession and due to go back to the farmers after construction (green / blue).	BMJV / LTC	Closed
6.	(41) BMjv / Skanska to provide relevant update on archaeology finds next steps once known.	BMJV / Skanska	Open
7.	(44) BMjv / Skanska to consider road signage for Shorne to prevent drivers driving through village. PP informed that the project signage, including ‘no access’ signage is being reviewed with KCC Highways and if agreed will be installed in strategic locations using existing signposts or new posts where required. Higham will also be considered as part of these considerations following feedback from this meeting.	BMJV / Skanska	Open
8.	(45) BMjv / Skanska to consider Shorne Crossroads safety mitigation. Was an important topic in this meeting, along with a section of the A226 near Gads Hill. Open with consideration for a separate session if needed.	BMJV / Skanska	Open
9.	(51) BMjv/Skanska to provide a map of haul roads at the next meeting. Provided on slide 26.	BMJV / Skanska	Closed
10.	(53) BMjv / Skanska to provide details of logistics management and mitigation (including any restrictions relating to Thamesview School). Slides 25-26.	BMJV / Skanska	Closed
11.	(58) CDK to provide clarity on NS167 diversion - could it be around the northern edge and improved access to country park. CDK and TO provided update that the site is too constrained now for National Gas Transmission (NGT) work, but Skanska will continue to explore if they can fit the diversion in this location after this work. In the meantime, an alternative diversion via NCN 177 for improved access to Shorne Woods Country Park. Closed for now, but need to revisit again, closer to the completion of NGT work.	Skanska	Closed
12.	(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.	LTC / Skanska	Open
13.	(63) BMjv / Skanska to provide more information on site lighting at future meetings. Both Skanska Slide 8 – Both Skanska and BMJV’s Site Lighting Strategies are under development, so will	BMJV / Skanska	Open

	provide more information at future meeting. In the meantime, information was provided on key principles, including using motion sensors and directing away from residents. TO also noted they are looking at low level lighting where possible, and trying to keep as far a reasonable practicable from residential properties.		
14.	(66) LTC / BMjv / Skanska to confirm if traffic modelling is considered with construction traffic and traffic management. PP confirmed that traffic modelling was considered as part of the project's Development Consent Order (DCO) Transport Assessment, which included a 20% construction contingency and was informed by traffic count data and forecast estimates. Traffic conditions will continue to be monitored and, if agreed thresholds are reached, the assumptions and mitigation measures would be reviewed through the Traffic Management Forum.	LTC / BMJV / Skanska	Closed
15.	(68) CW to follow-up with VW for utilising the Gravesham community engagement platform.	LTC	Closed
16.	(74) EG to follow-up with members on drop-in dates for sharing through their channels.	Skanska	Closed

Meeting notes and actions		Action owner	Status
Welcome			
1.	BL provided welcome, including reiterating the purpose of the CLG for identifying impacts, agreeing mitigation and how best to community with community, followed by round-table introductions from all attendees.	N/A	N/A
LTC progress update			
2.	CW provided short update on Highways Bill, including that it was introduced to Parliament in September. The Bill is designed to create a legal framework that allows major road schemes to be funded through private investment. Also, that New Civil Engineer (NCE) has recently published a report on the project's carbon pathfinder journey.	N/A	N/A
Review of actions register			
3.	Each action went through with the status and relevant notes updated within the actions log above.	(4) TO to provide update on if existing	Open

<p>4. Action 16 - SL asked if any of the trees and vegetation near the existing substation alongside the A2 (near Gravelhill Wood) could also be translocated. TO said he would look into it. Action.</p> <p>5. Action 35 - LH asked if the new substation would be noisy. DS said that the substation would be no noisier than any other substation.</p> <p>6. Action 28 - SL asked if any works are planned north of A266. LDF confirmed that no ground work is expected to be needed north of the A226. Surveys of utility assets will take place on Lower Higham Road to assess whether they may be affected, if so remedial works will be carried out.</p> <p>7. Action 44 - DW asked them Higham are part of this consideration.</p>	<p>vegetation and trees near substation can be translocated.</p>	
Update on recent community concerns		
<p>8. TO talked through a number of recent community concerns, including vibration, dust, problems with the project traffic lights on Thong Lane, trees dying and ponds drying up at new nature area within Thong, chicanes on the NCN 177 cycleway, and the actions taken to attend to the issues.</p> <p>9. AE reported that there have been more problems with the traffic lights and raised safety concerns for road users. TO confirmed this shouldn't be the case as following the earlier problems the traffic lights should be set to manual outside of working hours and over the weekend. TO will investigate to see whether an error has occurred and they were left on automated, instead of manual. Action.</p> <p>10. DA raised concerns from a resident who lives in a bungalow near the site who reported that the dust was horrendous. TO reiterated the planned measures to improve dust mitigation next year.</p>	<p>(8) TO look at continued problems with traffic lights turning on outside of working hours.</p>	<p>Open</p>
Kent Roads update by Skanska		
A2 site progress		
<p>11. TO talked through recent works, including completing the access road on site, which means construction traffic is now all via the A2, and putting in two mitigation bunds near residential properties. Also progress on archaeological finds and getting the first zero emission plant on site. TO also talked through a map of this work and upcoming activities, including vegetation and tree clearance is Claylane Woods starting soon, where ancient woodland soil and root balls will be relocated within the site, followed by putting in the site compound / offices from spring next year.</p> <p>12. BL asked if residents are informed of upcoming works. CW confirmed a letter update was going out this week, including the map on slide 12 and advertising the upcoming drop-in events at Cascades.</p> <p>13. DA suggested showcasing archaeology finds at future community drop-in events. CW confirmed this is something we want to do and have recently done in the north where BMJV had their archaeologists attend the Orsett Show with them. Action.</p>	<p>(12) Skanska / BMJV to provide update on taking archaeology finds to upcoming community drop-in events.</p>	<p>Open</p>

National Gas Transmission (NGT) progress and look ahead 14. TO explained that NGT were now on the A2 West site and have started early ground preparation work where they will create the shafts. He also noted that large plant deliveries, such as cranes, and materials such as shaft segments are starting to be delivered soon, with shaft construction soon to follow this year, followed by tunnelling from winter 2027. 15. BL is keen for NGT to be at future meeting to provide more informed update. Action.	(14) NGT to be at next meeting to provide progress and look ahead update, including relevant mitigation.	N/A
Early work for SGN – A2/Shorne Woods Country Park 16. TO updated on progress alongside the A2 in preparation for the SGN gas main diversion, reporting that the great crested newt fencing is now installed and clearance work will be finished this month, followed by translocating the ancient woodland soil to Puckle Hill. Archaeology work is due to start in the new year, as well as further clearance nearer to Inn on the Lake and closer to Brewers Road. The actual gas main diversion work by SGN is due to start in summer/autumn 2027.	N/A	N/A
Park Pale bat bunker relocation (SGN mitigation) 17. TO provided update including that the bat bunker segments have started to be delivered and they've begun landscaping work. All work due to be finished in early 2027.	N/A	N/A
Upcoming work locations 18. TO explained that early work is starting from early next year on the southern section of the A2, which also means the closure of Esso garage. Vegetation and tree clearance will also be starting this winter within the central reservation of A2/M2 near Brewers Road and Park Pale bridges. While the work takes place there will be overnight lane closures along both directions of the A2. 19. BL asked about how we'll communicate the upcoming vegetation and tree clearance within the central reservation. CW explained that we're looking into this now. 20. SL asked if Medway will be informed of the upcoming closure of the Esso Garage and LP raised concerns of lorries using the hard shoulder of the A2 to park on. CW and ES explained that we're working with Skanska and National Highways to ensure adequate communication, such as road signage and ensuring relevant organisations such as Medway services, haulage companies and ports are aware of the upcoming closure. Action. 21. JR mentioned that the lack of lorry parking is a problem Kent wide and there is ongoing work with National Highways on this.	(19) Skanska/LTC to update on communication relating to closure of Esso Garage and vegetation clearance within central reservation.	Open
Tunnels update by Bouygues Murphy joint venture		
Site update	N/A	N/A

22. LDF provided an update on recent archaeology site walks within the future southern tunnel entrance site, and that they are in the process of procuring their archaeology and fencing contractors.		
6 month look ahead 23. LDF talked through upcoming works, including topsoil artifact sampling until the end of the year, followed by more in-depth archaeology digging and setting up the site from January.	N/A	N/A
Joint updates		
Logistics management 24. PP talked through a number of systems that both BMJV and Skanska either have in place or are in the process of introducing, including scheduling, live tracking and Automatic Number Plate Recognition. 25. DW asked what the main vehicle movements would be. PP said that once the compounds are established then it's mainly site maintenance (fuel, water and waste) or steel and concrete for civil work. 26. DW raised concerns of the A226 being too narrow near Gads Hill school for turning into Forge and Crutches Lane, and increased safety concerns with the upcoming increase of HGV movements and thinks Kent County Council (KCC) are looking at putting in traffic lights. SL raised similar concerns for Shorne crossroads. DW asked if these concerns can be looked at further, such as a separate session to discuss in more detail. DS explained that he's aware of both issues and has recently raised with both construction teams to look into. BL noted that reducing the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph may help on relevant sections of the A226. Action. 27. EJ asked for more information on the protection of the Dickens Tunnel near Gads Hill Junction. LDF explained that a historic building condition survey is planned on the tunnel. 28. EJ noted a possible scenario of a driver's satnav directing them the wrong way and into one of the local villages. PP reiterated mechanisms for reducing this and CW also noted that drivers will receive consequences and eventually removed from site for repeat offences.	(25) Extension of action 45 from last meeting for BMjv / Skanska to consider Shorne Crossroads and A226 near Gads Hill for safety mitigation and how they may be able to support KCC plans.	Open
Traffic routes and haul roads 29. TO and PP talked through the current traffic routes and haul road routes within the sites. 30. BL asked about the 50mph speed reduction consideration. PP confirmed that LTC traffic lights that would be needed for vehicles leaving site and turning right on to the A226 (across coming traffic).	N/A	N/A

<p>The installation of a signalised junction would typically necessitate a reduction in the approach speed limit.</p>		
<p>Use of A226</p> <p>31. TO talked through the current and upcoming use of the A226 for NGT East work, including around 50 heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) per day between now and Christmas (around one every 15 mins on average). NGT will start on site in spring 27 and include some large deliveries and a number for materials, such as gravel, but no regular movements expected for things like soil leaving site.</p> <p>32. PP talked through the upcoming use of the A226 for the southern tunnel entrance site, with the peak of HGV movements at around 70 per day from around spring 27 – around one every 10 mins on average. The overall average across the full six-year programme is one HGV every 30 mins.</p> <p>33. DW asked about how accurate the traffic numbers were. PP confirmed that they were reviewed recently and that the figures shown represent an average across a quarter and are generally expected to be evenly distributed over the period. However, there may be individual days or weeks where volumes exceed 70 movements, offset by other periods with lower-than-average HGVs.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Impacts to Public Rights of Way</p> <p>34. Current and upcoming impacts to Public Rights of Way were spoken through, key updates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NS167 has been closed since the last meeting with users currently diverted around Astra Drive and Vigilant Way. An alternative diversion is being proposed via Claylane Wood and the NS177 to provide better access to Shorne Woods Country Park near Inn on the Lake – linked to action 58 of last meeting. Attendees were happy with this alternative option. - NG7 is due to be closed in spring 2027 and NG8 is due later next year. <p>35. SL raised that NG7 is an important route for the community.</p> <p>36. DC asked about the width restriction on the PRow from the northern end of Thong Lane towards Shorne. PP explained access was restricted with works happening and to reduce trespassing. Team took away action to get clarity on what had changed in this area, after speaking with DC after the meeting, DS got clarity that it was likely due to the rotating closures of the NG7/NS164 and NG9/NS165, with only one open at a time while NGT East work take place until late 2028.</p> <p>Action.</p> <p>37. DC asked to see permanent Public Rights of Way routes. Here's a link to the LTC Interactive Map showing the walker, cyclist and horse rider routes that will be available after construction of the new road.</p>	<p>(33) Skanska to provide new temporary diversion of NS167 via NCN 177.</p> <p>(35) Skanska to look at the current width of the NG7/NS164 and NG9/NS165 diversions and if they can be made wider.</p>	<p>Open</p>

Engagement and communications 38. CW provided an update on the last two drop-in events being held monthly at Cascades Leisure Centre. This includes that the sessions were well received, had around 25 attendees from a number of roads backing on to the A2 site, and what the key topics were. 39. Upcoming drop-in dates were noted; Wednesday 21 October, Wednesday 18 November and Tuesday 15 December, all between 4:30 and 6:30pm at Cascades. 40. Two sessions are also planned at Shorne Woods Country Park on Thursday 22 October and Saturday 7 November, 1pm to 4pm. 41. CW noted that they plan to launch local mailing lists soon as another avenue for keeping communities informed about our works and that the next round of large-scale community events is due early in 2027.	N/A	N/A
Community feedback		
42. BL raised that the key concerns for him from the meeting was the closure of the Esso Garage and the clearance within the central reservation, before going around the room to ask if anybody had any further concerns or comments that they would like raised. 43. AE asked when the Esso garage will close. TO confirmed we're planning to take possession of the land from January 6 th 2027. Follow-up note - it is likely that the garage will need to be closed sooner to allow time for decommissioning, such as in December. 44. JR reiterated concerns relating to the proposed speed restrictions on the A226 and is keen for further discussion. Action. 45. JR asked that John Reynolds at Kent Country Council is kept in the loop of all traffic management on the A2. Action. 46. LH asked how communities can raise concerns. The project's correspondence channels are info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk and 0300 123 5000 which are advertised via all correspondence from the project, including letters. Note, the phoneline is 24/7 so urgent action can be made if an incident needs immediate attention.	(43) BMJV / Skanska to liaise with KCC regarding speed reductions on the A226. (44) Skanska to confirm that John Reynolds is kept in the loop of traffic management on the A2.	Open
Items for future meetings and date of next meeting		
47. Next meeting agreed for Monday 18 th January 2027.	N/A	N/A