

Minutes A27 Arundel Bypass Scheme

Title:	A27 Arundel Bypass Elected Representatives' Forum		
Date:	23 November 2021	Time: 18:30-20:30	Location: MS Teams Meeting
Attendees:	<p>Sandra Fryer – Independent Chair Andrew Griffith (AG MP) MP – MP for Arundel and South Downs Cllr Trevor Bence (Cllr TB) – West Sussex County Council Cllr Joy Dennis (Cllr JD) – West Sussex County Council Cllr Gary Markwell (Cllr GM) – West Sussex County Council Cllr Shaun Gunner (Cllr SG) – Arun District Council Cllr Grant Roberts (Cllr GR) – Arun District Council Cllr Tony Hunt (Cllr TH) – Arundel Town Council Cllr Angela Standing (Cllr AS) - Arundel Town Council Cllr Suzanne Clark (Cllr SC)– Walberton Parish Council Cllr Andrew Ratcliffe (Cllr AR) – Walberton Parish Council Cllr Andrew Vawer (Cllr AV)– Walberton Parish Council Ms Sarah Linfield (SL) – Slindon Parish Council Cllr Peter Fenton (Cllr PF) – Slindon Parish Council Cllr Sam Langmead (Cllr SL) – Lyminster Parish Council Cllr Bryan Curtis (Cllr BC) – Poling Village Council</p>		
Observers:	<p>Darryl Hemmings (DH)– Transport Planning & Policy Manager at West Sussex County Council Roger Spencer (RS) – Arun District Council Vicki Colwell (VC) – Principal Planning Officer at South Downs National Park Authority Michelle Taylor (MT)– Senior Constituency Researcher for Andrew Griffith MP</p>		
Project Team:	<p>Andrew Jackson (AJ) – National Highways, Senior Project Manager Mark Hepburn (MH) – Linkconnex, Project Director Robin Hughes (RH) – Linkconnex Steve Harding (SH) – Linkconnex Alan Feeney (AF) – Linkconnex Alexander Bullock (AB) – Linkconnex Sian Pritchard (SP) – Linkconnex Paul Boughen (PB) – Linkconnex [REDACTED] – Linkconnex [REDACTED] – National Highways [REDACTED] – National Highways [REDACTED] – National Highways [REDACTED] – National Highways</p>		
Apologies:	Tim Burr (TB) - Member at South Downs National Park Authority		
Circulation List:	Attendees		

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Meeting [REDACTED] – Linkconnex
 Organiser:

No.	Item	Action <i>(by whom, by when)</i>
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
	The Independent Chair welcomed all attendees.	
2.	Minutes and Actions	
	<p>AJ discussed the previous minutes and actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Trust has confirmed they are still considering residential development plans for Fontwell Field in line with the Neighbourhood Plan allocation, but the NT had not taken any decisions as to when they will bring it forward with an application. • Further assessment work had been conducted regarding a potential junction at Ford Road, but the Scheme's principle conclusions had not changed. A workshop will be held in early December with Arun District Council (ADC) and West Sussex County Council (WSCC) technical officers to discuss options around the potential junction and the funding context. • It was confirmed that NH legal advice was that the Elected Representatives' Forum (ERF) meetings are intended to aid constructive dialogue and should not be public or live-streamed, particularly whilst the Scheme design was developing but not wholly in the public domain. AJ stated that this was the project decision although NH would consider livestreaming in the future should the circumstances change. • Cllr GR commented and requested it minuted that he objected to this decision not to livestream the Forum meetings. • AJ confirmed that the Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) and Value for Money (VfM) will be published within the application for DCO. 	
3.	Today's session and meeting conduct	.
	The Independent Chair set out the meeting conduct.	
4.	Wellbeing moment	

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	The Forum was informed of the potential danger and the need to remain aware of deer whilst driving. National Highways have established a partnership with 'Deer Aware'.	
5.	Programme Update	
	<p>AJ provided a programme update including the statutory consultation which will take place from 11th January 2022 to 8th March 2022, with the first in-person event on the 18th January. AJ noted that all in-person events will have COVID precautions in place and abide carefully by COVID restrictions.</p> <p>AJ reminded attendees that Land Information Questionnaires (LIQs) had been sent to many local homeowners and landowners. The distribution list is based on the land registry and this is a process to which NH/LCX must abide by. AJ confirmed that receipt of a letter does not indicate that the recipient will be physically affected by the Scheme as the full study area includes all owners who may potentially be affected by either physical or non-physical impacts.</p>	
6.	Lookahead to Statutory Consultation	
	AJ outlined the Gunning Principles, which were derived in 1985 and are described as the ' <i>prescription for fairness</i> ' for consultation. AJ stated LCX/NH are mid-way through the Scheme preliminary design which makes January the appropriate time to consult.	
	The consultation period has been doubled from the statutory minimum of 28 days, to 8 weeks.	
7.	Statutory Consultation and our approach to local engagement	
	<p>The Linkconnex Stakeholder Engagement team lead, SP, provided a further update on Statutory Consultation and the approach. SP explained that the Planning Act 2008 required a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), outlining how the project team are going to engage with communities. The SoCC was currently in draft and had been circulated to the statutory authorities (WSCC, ADC, SDNP).</p> <p>SP stated that at present, NH and LCX are planning 12 in-person consultation events, which will take place with COVID precautions in place. NH and LCX will also have a 'display van' and online engagement opportunities, such as the project website, virtual consultation room and live chat events.</p> <p>SP explained that there will be around 14 document deposit locations, posters in village halls, a consultation flyer posted to more than 100,000 properties, and statutory notices in local and national newspapers. In addition, consultees will receive an email notification, there will be targeted engagement via</p>	

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	<p>Teams meetings upon request, and special arrangements will be made for seldom heard groups.</p> <p>Cllr SC queried when the venues and dates of exhibitions will be made available and AJ commented that the 11th January is in the public domain and NH will begin announcing Statutory Consultation from 4 December 21, and then again after the first week in January (with a break planned in for Christmas).</p> <p>NH/LCX wish to provide as many opportunities as possible for people to attend events. There are two events in Walberton, some events are during the week, some at the weekend. AJ also explained that a consultation form will be available electronically and online. NH would be grateful if councillors would inform their constituents.</p>	
	<p>Cllr JD commented that she felt that the Statutory Consultation period of 8 weeks was too short. Cllr GR agreed 12 weeks would be preferable. AJ responded that NH/LCX felt 28 days (4 weeks) was too short and therefore extended this out to 8 weeks which NH/LCX considers to be an appropriate amount of time for this Scheme.</p> <p>Cllr JD noted that governance processes can take a number of weeks within local authorities and 8 weeks would be too short. Cllr JD stated that she and WSCC will look at legal timeframes and how the 8 weeks will play into their legal process. AJ responded that LCX/NH are already discussing this with SEBs to see how LCX and NH can assist in expediting the process.</p> <p>Action: LCX/NH to continue discussions with WSCC to understand the feasibility of WSCC providing a response within the 8-week Statutory Consultation period.</p>	<p>LCX / NH</p>
	<p>Cllr SC asked whether there will be a preview for the ERF. It was confirmed that there would be an opportunity for members to view consultation materials and this is currently scheduled for 17 January 2022.</p> <p>Action: To confirm the in-person preview event date for the Members' Forum and issue invite.</p> <p>AG MP asked whether detailed technical information such as a road traffic model and data package would be published during Statutory Consultation. SP explained that a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report), a PEIR non-technical summary (PEI Report NTS), the consultation brochure and other separate technical information would be published alongside technical and non-technical maps</p> <p>The Linkconnex environment lead, SH, confirmed that the whole suite of documents and environmental information will</p>	<p>LCX / NH</p>

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	<p>be smaller in volume than for Gatwick Airport's recent consultation.</p> <p>Cllr BC questioned whether the consultation would include commentary on a number of other large schemes in the area being planned, such as the Rampion cable route and the link with the WSCC highway scheme between Crossbush and Littlehampton. SH confirmed that these will be mentioned.</p>	
8a.	Project updates - Design Council Meeting- feedback	
	<p>The LCX Design team lead, RH, presented an update on the Design Council's review of the Scheme and explained that the detailed findings will be available for discussion after 11 January 22.</p> <p>The intention is that the Design Council letter will be made public, alongside the Statutory Consultation documents. RH restated that LCX/NH are keen to achieve the best possible solution and provide a sustainable legacy.</p>	
8b.	Project updates - Archaeology and Trial Trenching	
	<p>The LCX Environmental lead, SH, provided an update on Archaeological Trial Trenching (ATT), describing what has and has not been found. He confirmed the targeted nature of ATT, with c900 trenches being studied, representative of five percent of the study area. SH explained the reason for completing ATT now.</p> <p>Artefacts are, such as a medieval land ring and segments of pottery are providing an indication of what the land was previously used for and the archaeologists are starting to match up finds with previous studies.</p> <p>The extent of one already-known nationally important asset is being confirmed and there are many interesting findings but at present, nothing that will require changes to the Scheme design. All work is conducted under the assurance of a County Archaeologist.</p>	
9.	Future forum meetings	
	<p>AJ provided an update on future meetings and re-stated that an ERF preview was proposed for 17 January 2022. The exhibition would present an opportunity to view display boards, consultation material etc. prior to the first consultation event (Covid restrictions permitting).</p> <p>AJ also confirmed there will be a formal ERF meeting later during the Statutory Consultation period and welcomed discussion around proposed dates.</p>	

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	<p>Cllr GR commented that there was an Arun District Council meeting on 23 February and this date should be avoided for the ERF; the following week would be better. Cllr BC welcomed both dates but was happy to postpone or bring forward the next ERF meeting. AJ thanked the attendees for this feedback and again welcomed any further advice on possible dates.</p> <p>Action: LCX/NH to source a suitable date in the Statutory Consultation period for the second ERF.</p>	LCX / NH
10.	Questions	
	<p>Cllr SC queried if there had been an update on the Focus Group with Hooe Farm. AJ confirmed that NH and LCX have communicated with Hooe Farm on this and are following up on this discussion. RH stated that he will follow up with Cllr SC with an update on this dialogue and outcome.</p> <p>Action: RH to follow-up with Cllr SC with an update on the dialogue and outcome regarding meetings with Hooe Farm.</p>	LCX

NEXT MEETING

Date:	17/01/2022	Time:	17:00 (TBC)	Location:	Arundel Town Hall, BN18 9AP (TBC)
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