

Minutes

A27 Arundel Bypass Scheme

Circulation list: Attendees

Meeting Organiser: [REDACTED] – Highways England

DISCUSSION POINTS		
No.	Item	Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
	The Independent Chair welcomed attendees.	
2.	Agenda	
	The agenda included; a general update, feedback following the March forum, a technical update on Ford Road junction and the floodplain crossing, an overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, and review of the consultation and engagement and programme.	
3.	Wellbeing moment	
	A reflection on the wellbeing benefits of connecting with nature, following this year's Mental Health Awareness Week, 10 th to 16 th May.	
4.	General update since last forum	
	Andrew Jackson explained that the project team have been gathering more information through surveys and are now focusing on the scheme design and building towards the Statutory Consultation later this year.	
	The project team have been continuing to engage with landowners, stakeholders and statutory bodies.	
	The next key design milestone is referred to as 'Design Fix 3A' for which the design team are refining details such as alignment and mitigation measures.	
5.	Feedback following the March Forum	
	The minutes for the March forum had been circulated and are available online on the A27 Arundel Bypass Highways England website. There were no comments on the minutes which were accepted.	
	The project team provided feedback on scheme related issues raised at the March forum including: Walberton and Binsted CofE Primary School, Binsted Rife and St Mary's Church, veteran trees and ancient woodland, Avisford Grange and Avisford Park, communication around planned mitigation, de-trunking of the existing A27 dual-carriageway and correspondence.	
6.	Ford Road junction and floodplain crossing	
	The project technical director gave an update on Ford Road junction, explaining that the project team are continuing to explore implications for future provision of a junction. The project team have consulted with Arun District Council (ADC) and West Sussex County Council officers to understand	

Minutes A27 Arundel Bypass Scheme

	planned developments and potential impact on traffic modelling.	
	It was explained that provisional findings show an indicative traffic usage for a junction; however, the level of usage is such that the strategic case remains uncertain and some dis-benefits such as increased traffic from the Ford Road roundabout. Dialogue must continue with ADC and WSCC to fully understand future needs and to mature the options by late summer 2021.	
	The project technical director gave an update on the floodplain crossing, explaining that environmental and geotechnical surveys are continuing on the floodplain and regular meetings are taking place with the Environment Agency and other statutory environmental bodies.	
	It was explained that the flood model is being used to assess options prior to Statutory Consultation and that three different crossing options are being reviewed and assessed (embankment, viaduct, hybrid). More information will be shared at the Statutory Consultation later in 2021.	
7.	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process	
	The project environmental lead gave an overview of the EIA process and what information can be expected at different points. It was explained that screening (determining whether an EIA is required) is the first stage in the EIA process, followed by scoping (agreeing methodology), data gathering, assessment, identification of enhancement and mitigation measures, and preparation of the Environmental Statement (ES) which is submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.	
	The EIA scoping stage is one of the distinct points for consultation. The EIA scoping opinion for the scheme was received on 15 th April and included comments relating to the floodplain crossing and impacts on sensitive receptors.	
	It was explained that information provided at Statutory Consultation will include a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), environmental masterplan and non-technical summary (NTS).	
	For DCO submission, the ES will be a comprehensive, multi-volume document detailing the outputs of the EIA process, plus an NTS.	
	The technical chapters for the PEIR and ES were discussed	
8.	Consultation and Engagement update	
	Andrew Jackson explained that the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been shared with WSCC, ADC and SDNPA informally and the formal circulation of the SoCC will follow later in the summer. Planning is particularly focused on discussing the appropriate Covid-19 measures that may pertain later in the year, and how to maximise participation across all communities.	
	It was explained that the Statutory Consultation will last eight weeks.	

Minutes A27 Arundel Bypass Scheme

	<p>It is anticipated that a virtual consultation room will be used and the team are currently planning for both virtual and in-person events, subject to Covid-19.</p>	
	<p>Highways England's approach to engagement comprises three pillars: technical engagement, community/ political engagement and wider engagement.</p> <p>It is intended to re-establish a Steering Group with senior officers from WSCC, ADC, SDNPA and others; this is likely to begin in late June/ July).</p> <p>Andrew Jackson explained that the A27 Arundel Bypass team want to reach as many people as possible through the Statutory Consultation and would appreciate the support of Elected Representatives to pass on information to constituents to allow them to participate.</p>	
9.	Indicative programme	
	Andrew Jackson provided an update on the indicative programme.	
	It was explained that the information presented at Statutory Consultation will be sufficiently developed for members of the community to understand what is proposed but with opportunity to influence the design, and therefore the plans shown at Statutory Consultation will not be the final design.	
	Construction is anticipated to commence end 2023/ 2024.	
10.	Questions	
	<p>Several questions were asked regarding Ford Road junction and the metrics that supported any strategic case for a junction. The project team explained that a broad range of aspects are considered, such as the junction design, funding and the planning need. WSCC and ADC would be involved in these discussions through the Focus Groups and Traffic Sub-Group. A comment was also made about the quantity of proposed new housing and other development in the area, including industrial units and a proposed incinerator.</p> <p>Afternote: The project team will continue dialogue with WSCC and ADC to ensure sufficient detail can be provided to the questions raised by councillors.</p>	Focused follow-up meeting with WSCC and ADC
	<p>Questions were asked about whether costs have been assessed for cut and cover or a tunnel from Binsted to Walberton, and what level of elevation reduction is being considered.</p> <p>It was explained that cut and cover/ tunnelling was looked at during Stage 2 and more information can be provided at Statutory Consultation. The design aims to minimise impacts on the church whilst providing sufficient clearance for bats. Continued dialogue is taking place with statutory environmental bodies.</p>	

Minutes

A27 Arundel Bypass Scheme

	<p>A question was asked about houses at the Avisford Grange development and whether Highways England will buy houses on the estate and whether developers will be compensated to stop work.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Highways England do not wish to buy houses and will be guided by the compensation code. The project team are in discussion with the developers and it is in the common interest to ensure the work is completed.</p>	
	<p>A question was asked about the location of ground survey works and whether conclusions can be drawn about the likely route alignment. It was explained that we are at a preliminary stage of survey works and conclusions about route alignments cannot be made on the basis of current survey locations.</p>	
	<p>A question was asked about the Steering Group and whether it would involve district and county councillors. It was explained that the Steering Group will be an extension of the Focus Groups and for council officers, rather than for councillors.</p>	
11.	Next meeting	
	<p>It was confirmed that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th July and will likely be held on Microsoft Teams unless otherwise communicated.</p>	Next meeting 20th July

NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday 20th July **Time:** 19:00-21:00 **Location:** MS Teams
