

A46 Member Partnership

**Wednesday 13th June 2018, 2-4pm
Stratford-on-Avon District Council**

Present:

Members: Cllr Vernon Smith (Chair), Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Lynden Stowe, Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Adrian Hardman, Wychavon District Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Mark Cargill, Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Cllr Ken Pollock, Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Heather Timms, Rugby Borough Council

LEPs: Michael Warner, GFirst LEP

Highways England: Nick Wells (NW), Asset Development Team Leader
Eri Wong (EW), Asset Manager - Coventry & Warwickshire
Steve Wrenn (SW), Project Manager A46/A428 Binley Improvements

Officers: Adrian Hart (AH), Warwickshire County Council
Amanda Lawson-Smith (ALS), Gloucestershire County Council
Nicholas Dauncey (ND), Warwickshire Council Council
Jeremy Williamson (JW), Cheltenham Borough Council
Shawn Riley (SR), Wychavon District Council
Annette Roberts (AR), Tewkesbury Borough Council
Dave Barber (DB), Warwick District Council
Andy Baker (AB), Worcestershire County Council
John Seddon (JS), Coventry City Council
Paul Harris (PH), Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Mark Palfreyman (MP), Leicestershire County Council

Apologies: Cllr Jeff Clarke, Warwickshire County Council
Cllr David Welsh, Coventry City Council
John Careford, Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Stuart Maxwell, Leicester City Council
Adrian Johnson, Highways England
Jeremy Williamson, Cheltenham Borough Council

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising (Chair)

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 were agreed.

3. A46 Binley Improvements (Highways England/Aecom)

James Sachon gave a presentation on the proposed improvements at the A46/A428 Binley roundabout which form part of the Coventry Eastern Bypass Junction proposals. This element is programmed to start in 2020 and expected to be completed by Spring 2022.

In response to stakeholder feedback, the design has changed so that more of the A46 will now be raised on a bridge structure, removing part of the visual “wall” effect. Noise mitigation is currently proposed on the north west corner of the flyover to protect adjacent properties but not in other areas.

Cllr Timms expressed her concern that raising the road and deterioration of the surface over time would generate noise impacts for residents of Binley Woods, visitors to the nearby ancient woodland and the Rugby club. She asked for noise barriers to be installed on all sides of the flyover. SW agreed to look into whether there was scope to include these.

AH expressed support for the proposals but noted that there was a need to ensure local communities are protected from adverse impacts. He asked whether the Binley improvements could be brought forward to minimise construction impacts during the Coventry City of Culture in 2021.

AH added that it would be useful for members to understand the emerging picture of construction dates for major improvement schemes in the area, particularly HS2, and suggested the Officer Group could compile a schedule of projects [**Action: AH**]. He proposed to invite Anne Shaw – Director of Network Resilience at TfWM to a future meeting [**Action: AH**].

Cllr Timms highlighted that despite the improvements at A45/A46 Tollbar and A45/A46/A444 Festival Island there are still southbound queuing issues and capacity problems on this section of the A46.

Cllr Smith asked for details on the main issues raised during public consultation. JS replied that these were mainly concerned with noise on the Binley Woods side of the junction and a broader mix of issues on the other.

Cllr Pollock asked for details on the cost of noise mitigation on the flyover and whether this could be funded from other savings which are being made on the project. **SW** agreed to provide further information on this [**Action: SW**].

AH asked if the presentation could be sent to him so that he could share it with the group [Action: **JSachon**].

4. A46 Strategic Corridor Study (Atkins)

Alistair Cox (AC) gave a presentation on the Midlands Connect A46 Strategic Corridor Study, highlighting its significant importance for the UK economy as a whole, notably in the automotive, aerospace, textiles and agri-food sectors.

Further investment in the corridor is required however as inconsistent highway standards are constraining its potential to support further housing and employment growth.

The current stage of the study is identifying priority areas for intervention following the development of a strong narrative as to why investment is needed.

AH noted that the economic narrative is compelling and highlighted that the forthcoming Midlands Connect launch event on 9th July in Birmingham. He asked whether Chris Grayling MP (SoS for Transport) will be made aware of the existing economic role of the A46 and when outputs from the study would be publicised.

AC replied that there will be a dedicated stand covering the A46 corridor at the event and a public facing summary of the report could be produced after the launch.

Cllr Smith asked whether we could discuss the findings of the draft report with the public.

AC replied that a final report is due to be produced in July 2018 which would be the version to use.

AC noted that illustrative schemes were being tested to assess their performance in terms of delivering travel time savings and economic growth. A further study would be required to look at scheme options in more detail

Cllr Hardman commented that previous approaches to investment had not considered the corridor as a whole.

5. Midlands Connect Update (Midlands Connect)

AH highlighted work was progressing on the A5 Strategic Corridor and Midlands Motorway Hub studies (which includes consideration of M6 Junctions 3-11, Strategic

P&R and making better use of the M6 toll), and Midlands Connect's proposals to become a statutory Sub-National Transport Body (STB).

Cllr Hardman asked whether Midlands Connect had produced a masterplan. **AH** replied that a recent document had been published by Midlands Connect setting out a summary of the findings from the first phase of the Midlands Motorway Hub Study.

ALS confirmed that this piece of work had recommended that the A46 be studied in more detail.

6. Highways England Update (Highways England)

NW is expecting a Delivery Plan update by the end of June 2018 on RIS1. DfT are due to publish their response to the SRN Initial Report consultation before the Summer recess. The RIS2 investment proposition will be published in June 2019. The Delivery Plan will confirm progress on RIS1 implementation.

SR noted that the new pedestrian crossing on the A46 at Evesham had not yet commissioned. NW promised to look into this and provide an update [**Action: NW**].

Cllr Cargill referred to smaller junction improvements which were proposed at Binton and Billesley. NW replied that these were at scheme options and design phase and was reasonably confident around possible funding.

Cllr Cargill asked NW to investigate why vehicle activated warning signs for queues ahead did not appear to be working at the Billesley and Binton junctions. NW agreed to look into this [**Action: NW**].

7. Mapping of Planned Housing and Employment Growth (Dave Barber)

DB reported that Leicestershire County Council (LCC) had undertaken the GIS mapping. This showed proposed housing and employment in each LPA within a 5 mile radius of the A46 or very large sites, e.g. Long Marston Airfield in Stratford-on-Avon District.

DB noted that the next iteration of the maps would give members a visual and numeric representation on the level of housing growth, but that the actual figures were not shown as yet.

DB noted that LCC were due to contact Wychavon DC to obtain Pershore planning information and associated data.

Cllr Timms asked for significant sites at South West Rugby (5,000 dwellings and 35 ha employment) and Ansty to be added to the map as these would have an impact on the A46 [Action: MP].

DB proposed that the mapping would be updated annually and linked to housing monitoring data which generally takes place during the Autumn.

8. A46 Prospectus Launch/Lobbying of MPs (Amanda Lawson-Smith)

ALS noted that the video launch of the prospectus was now being treated as a high priority and apologised for lack of progress to date due to resourcing problems. A new communications manager had recently been appointed.

Cllr Smith noted that this was the last meeting when he would chair the Member Partnership but would continue to attend as a Tewkesbury BC councillor.

It was agreed that the Officer Group would help the new chair with the arrangements for lobbying MPs in October/November 2018.

9. A46 Action Plan Update (Adrian Hart)

AH gave an update on the A46 Action Plan, which is kept under regular review for the members of the Partnership.

10. A46 Corridor Local Plan and SEP Update (Adrian Hart)

AH indicated that the document kept up to date with input from LPAs and LEPs.

Cllr Stowe asked if the data presented could be more consistent in its presentation, and how the information could be linked to the mapping exercise. AH agreed to look into this [Action: AH].

11. Media Issues (Chair)

ALS agreed to circulate the video and Communication Plan [Action: ALS].

12. Future Items (Chair)

- a) M6 Junctions 2-4 Smart Motorway – currently underway. **NW** to identify who could come and present.
- b) Network Coordination and Resilience – **AH** to invite Anne Shaw from TfWM to attend
- c) Further presentation on A46 Strategic Corridor Study
- d) January 2019 meeting – presentation on the proposals for the A46 Stoneleigh junction near the University of Warwick, which is due to start on site next year.

Warwickshire County Council leading on the delivery of the scheme in partnership with Coventry City Council.

13. AOB

AB sought clarification on who would be the next Vice Chair – 2 year rolling tenure. It was agreed that the officer group would seek advice from members on potential nominations **[Action: AH/Officer Group]**.

Next Meeting: 2nd October 2018 @ 2pm, Tewkesbury Borough Council