

Great Yarmouth Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group

Minutes

Wednesday, 26 September 2018 at 14:00

Present :

Councillor K Grey (in the Chair) and Councillor B Coleman

County Councillors Castle and Plant

Mr D Glason (Development Director), Mr I Parkes (Senior Infrastructure Growth Planner), Mr J Wiggin (Transport Development Manager) and Mrs S Wintle (Member Services Officer).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 July 2018 were confirmed.

Councillor Plant asked in relation to the Burgh Road to Edison Road matter that had been discussed at the previous meeting and he was advised that this matter was included within the Senior Infrastructure Growth Planner's report detailed within the agenda.

4 GREAT YARMOUTH TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The Steering Group received and considered the Senior Infrastructure Growth Planner's report which set out the work in progress on developing the Great Yarmouth Transport Strategy. The report described the working arrangements, progress to date and what work was being proposed over the next few months.

Members were reminded that at the previous meeting of the Steering Group, Members had considered the draft brief for the development of a transport strategy for Great Yarmouth.

The Senior Infrastructure Growth Planner reported that work on developing the transport strategy was being progressed by WSP who were the consultant partner of Norfolk County Council, although it was noted the steer of the transport strategy would be managed jointly by both Norfolk County Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council Officers.

It was reported that analysis of the current and future transport problems and issues had been completed and a Stage 1 : issues and opportunities report had now been produced, Members were advised that a copy had been included within the agenda pack.

A Stakeholder workshop had been held on the 14 June 2018 where a vision and set of objectives for the Strategy had been proposed, these had been agreed taking into account comments that had been made by Members and Stakeholder responses. Following consideration of the analysis including feedback received a long list of possible transport schemes had now been drawn up.

The Senior Infrastructure Growth Planner reported that the next steps for this piece of work was to appraise and assess the schemes included on the long list against the vision and objectives that had been set. This assessment would be completed using the Department for Transport's Early Appraisal Sifting Tool and where appropriate transport modelling. Following this a short list will be

produced from which a draft strategy of schemes and measures could be derived, it was hoped that an early draft would be available December 2018.

The Senior Infrastructure Growth Planner asked for Member comments on the draft Strategy.

County Councillor Plant made reference to the schemes detailed for both Vauxhall and Gapton Roundabouts he stated that in his opinion the priority for this area would be to maintain the flow of motorist traffic around the town, he raised some concern in relation to the plan prioritising the area for non motorist traffic as he pointed out that this was the main access road for motorists so the need for free flowing access was imperative. The Senior Infrastructure Growth Planner advised that this matter was still being discussed with Highways England, the Transport Development Team Manager agreed that the key priority for the area needed to be traffic flow.

County Councillor Castle pointed out that there was a need for an exit out of both B and M stores and Lidl on Pasteur Road Great Yarmouth to alleviate the vast amount of traffic building up on Station Road leading onto Southtown Road. He advised that Planning Permission had been granted for this exit route.

County Councillor Castle also raised the need for a bus stop / pull in close to the rail station platform as he advised there had always been issues with buses entering the rail station forecourt, he also felt that a further stop be introduced on the other side of the road to allow access to the train station. County Councillor Plant asked whether the recent introduction of the right hand turn out of this site had seen a positive response from the local Bus Companies, the Transport Development Manager advise that he had a meeting on site at the train station arranged with Ian Rankin, First Bus next week. The Development Director reported that a new bus shelter had recently been erected within the station forecourt.

County Councillor Castle commented that there was also a need to look at the freight sidings adjacent to the A47 as well as highlighting the dualling of the A47 Acle Straight. County Councillor Plant raised some concern and made reference to a mis-leading comment which stated that there were no schemes planned for the A47, as he stated that this was a priority for the A47 alliance through RIS2. Members agreed that there was a need for this wording to be changed.

County Councillor Castle commented that he felt the train service into Great Yarmouth needed to be looked into as there had been a number of cancellations on the line which were continuing, he made reference to the Cambridge line using the town as a connecting link which could ensure train services did not get cancelled. He also pointed out the need to recognise the potential of new homes in and around the town centre and the need for the parking strategy to be stronger.

RESOLVED :

- (1) That Members note the contents of the report and associated documents.
- (2) That the Strategy be endorsed as amended.
- (3) That feedback from Members on schemes to be shortlisted be fed-back to the Senior Infrastructure Growth Planner and Development Director by the 12 October 2018.
- (4) An addendum sheet to be tabled at the Economic Development Committee on the 8 October 2018 to reflect the comments.

5 GREAT YARMOUTH LGF SCHEMES UPDATE

The Steering Group considered the Senior Infrastructure Growth Planner's report which set out the progress on the development and delivery of the Great Yarmouth Local Growth Fund Transport schemes funded from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.

Members were advised the report identified the status of each of the schemes under development, made note of Member views that had been raised previously and set out the next steps.

County Councillor Castle asked whether the exit out of Lidl and B and M could be looked at as part of the Southtown Road / Bridge Road scheme, but he was advised that unfortunately this matter could not be looked at as part of this phasing as it could cause delays to the scheme. The Transport Development Manager reported that in respect of the current scheme in place, ongoing discussions were being held with the owners of the Matalan site as some concern had been raised in relation to the entrance and egress of the site in light of the removal of the traffic signals. It was agreed that a simulation of the works to be completed and the visualisation of how the scheme will work be circulated to all Members.

County Councillor Plant made reference to the proposed introduction of public realm space at the Hall Plain Junction and agreed that there was a need for this improvement, County Councillor Castle commented that there was a need to look at the alternative parking options following this proposal to alleviate any frustrations that may occur.

County Councillor Plant advised that concerns had been raised by the Gorleston Area Committee in relation to the footpath improvements at Riverside Road, it was agreed that the Transport Development Manager provide a response to concerns that had been raised by Area Committee. It was reported that legal advice had been sought in respect of the footpath improvements in light of recent guidance that had been received with respect to partially sighted users.

Reference was made to the Thamesfield Way site and it was reported that

discussions had been held with Ventureforth but to date permission had not been given for use of the road, Members raised concern in relation to this as they felt the benefits of access being re-opened outweighed the negative effects and felt that a possible CPO action would be the best way forward with this scheme.

Members discussed the recently refurbished Bus Shelters under Market Gates, Great Yarmouth and how these were still without power. It was reported that this matter was being addressed. It was pointed out that Clear Channel who had an obligation to supply power to the facility were contracted through the Norfolk County Council and GYB Services, therefore it was agreed that details be sent through to the Development Director to look into this matter.

Members discussed and commented on table 2 within the Senior Infrastructure Planners report which detailed sustainable transport schemes for investigation and implementation in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

The Senior Infrastructure Planner reported that due to ongoing discussions the Vauxhall Gardens proposals would be put on hold until such time land could be secured.

County Councillor Plant asked in relation to pathways in Bradwell and whether these could be considered as part of the scheme as it was noted that these were in poor condition. It was agreed that Councillor Plant send details through to the Senior Infrastructure Planner and that this matter be looked into.

County Councillor Castle suggested that before and after pictures be completed to show how the funding has been spent in and around the town.

Councillor B Coleman asked in respect of weeds at Fullers Hill Roundabout, the Transport Development Manager reported that a planting scheme had been agreed for the roundabout and was to be delivered at the end of October 2018.

Resolved :

(1) That the Steering Group note the contents of the Senior Infrastructure Planner's report.

(2) That approval be given to the confirmation of the schemes and actions to ensure the funds are committed to Great Yarmouth and that none of the funding allocation be returned.

6 A47 HIGHWAYS ENGLAND - ROAD INVESTMENT SCHEME UPDATE

The Steering Group were advised that works were ongoing with Highways England re: Vauxhall, Gapton and Harfreys roundabouts.

7 THIRD RIVER CROSSING UPDATE

The Development Director reported that the consultation process ended Friday 5 October 2018, the exhibition that had been running had seen a good turnout.

Members were advised that the procurement of a contractor for the project would commence in November with an appointment to be made in January 2019.

The Development Director reported that a report would be taken to the Economic Development Committee on the 8 October 2018 which would provide an update on progress so far.

8 A47 / LONGFULANS LANE

The Chairman reported that she had received an email from Hopton Parish Council which had raised concern in respect of outline planning permission being granted for 200 homes at the site and these new homes being given a direct access route to the A47. It was advised that it would be unlikely that a new access road direct to the A47 would be introduced but it was agreed that the Development Director seek clarification on this planning permission from the Development Control and Strategic Planning Department.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

County Councillor Castle asked for the Officer Group to look at the sidings at the Railway Station in order to see if any land could be of use for the A47 dualling of the Acle Straight scheme.

County Councillor Plant reported on Elmhurst Close, Gorleston where there was no crossing available for residents who were predominately elderly between the Middleton Road and Victoria Road Roundabouts. It was felt that this matter should be allocated to the long list of opportunities and issues for transport.

The Chairman raised some concern in respect of the new roundabout layout at Beacon Park where it had been noted that the traffic leaving Gorleston are fed into three lanes but that the markings on the road did not show markings to turn to the right round the roundabout. County Councillor Plant also stated that a keep in lane sign was required at the Fullers Hill Roundabout. It was agreed that these comments be fed back to Highways England.

The meeting ended at: 16:00