

## Environment, Development and Transport Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 March 2016 at 10am at County Hall.**

**Present:**

Mr R Coke (Chair)

Ms C Bowes  
Dr A Boswell  
Mr B Bremner  
Mr M Castle  
Mr D Crawford  
Mrs M Dewsbury  
Mr T East  
Mr C Foulger

Mr B Iles  
Mr T Jermy  
Mrs J Leggett  
Mr G Plant  
Mr N Shaw  
Mr J Timewell (Vice Chair)  
Mr A White  
Mr M Wilby

**1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mr J Childs, substituted by Mr D Crawford, Mrs C Walker, substituted by Mr M Castle and Mr S Clancy substituted by Mr N Shaw.

**2 To Agree the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 29th January 2016.**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3 Declarations of Interest**

3.1 None were made.

**4 Urgent Business**

4.1 The Chairman raised as a matter of urgent business the need for the Committee to be regularly kept updated by the working groups for the Wensum Valley Link and the A47 Working Group with a regular standing item on the agenda where members could update the rest of the Committee of any progress made or any issues arising. The Chairman of the Wensum Valley Link Member Working Group gave a short update on discussions at the last meeting of the Group.

4.2 The Chairman informed the Committee of an issue that had come to light regarding the failure of the aggregate used by our term contractor, Tarmac. There had been

some problems with the surfacing material since December 2015. Tarmac were rectifying the issue with no cost being incurred by Norfolk County Council. 28 sites will be monitored by Tarmac, with 8 sites already confirmed as needing further work.

The Committee highlighted the disruption further works would have on the public, with affected areas including Tombland and The Avenues in Norwich having been affected by this problem already. Members advised officers that the work required should be completed before the summer months.

Officers advised they would be working with Tarmac to ensure the necessary work was completed with as little disruption to the public and in a timely a manner as possible.

## **5 Local Member Issues / Member Questions**

- 5.1 **Appendix A** to these minutes sets out the Member questions and replies received for this meeting.
- 5.2 In response to Cllr Kemp's question, members discussed and highlighted that there were certain areas that did not fall within the parish definition in particular unparished District/Borough wards, and therefore were losing out from the opportunities available by the Parish Partnership scheme.

The Committee **Agreed** that the officers should look at the criteria for those qualifying for Parish Partnership Schemes and report back to the Committee.

- 5.3 In response to Cllr M Castle's question about the recent diversions in Great Yarmouth set up as a result of an emergency, members raised concerns over the lack of communication between the council and Norfolk Constabulary in relation to these routes and asked that the Chairman write to the constabulary to voice the Committee's concerns.

Members also highlighted the fact that there had been further disruption in Great Yarmouth following a burst water main and that the measures that had been put in place were unsuitable. The Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services agreed to pick up this issue and report back to members.

- 5.4 In response to Cllr M Dewsbury's question about providing members with further information about customer contacts in their areas, members were advised that the new Customer Relations Management software was being trialled and members would be involved with work to develop suitable reports from this system.

## **6. Notice of Motion**

- 6.1 Mr M Wilby proposed, seconded by Mr G Plant that this committee:
- was concerned about the flow of HGVs through towns and villages in Norfolk;
  - Recognises the concerns of local residents in affected areas about the resulting damage to the natural and built environment, as well as the risk to pedestrians;

- Notes the particular effect of this along the B1111 between the A1066 and the A11 through the villages of East Harling, Garboldisham and Roudham;
- Is aware that the HGV route hierarchy has not been updated for over 20 years, during which time lorry sizes have increased and many roads and villages have changed significantly. And, therefore will:
- Pilot a modest revision of the HGV route hierarchy along the B1111 using the “A” roads i.e. the A11 and A1066 and
- Examine the potential for similar revisions across the county, in other areas seriously affected.

6.2 The Chairman invited Mr S Askew to address the Committee as local member for East Harling.

Mr S Askew informed the Committee that the issues on the B1111 were becoming intolerable and that only by limiting the road to Access Only would the problem be solved. Surveys had been carried out which reported 1,483 HGVs through the village of East Harling in one week. Over £15k had been spent on the bollards on one corner as they were continuously being knocked down.

6.3 The following points were raised during the following discussion:-

- The principle of the motion was sound but concerns were raised that focusing on just one area would only result in moving the same problem to another village or town.
- Any changes would need to involve consultation with local businesses, especially those that used HGVs.
- It was important that any report produced looked into whether the HGVs going through the village were going *to* or whether they were going *through*, as this would make a big difference.

6.4 Mr M Wilby proposed an amendment to his motion, seconded by Mr G Plant that the Committee would:

- Ask officers to investigate what can be done to improve the current situation along the B1111 between Garboldisham and Roudham, and to come back to the EDT committee with options to improve the situation and examine the potential for similar revisions across the county, in other areas seriously affected.

The Committee unanimously **Agreed**.

6.5 The Committee **RESOLVED** that :-

- There was concern about the flow of HGVs through towns and villages in Norfolk;
- They recognised the concerns of local residents in affected areas about the resulting damage to the natural and built environment, as well as the risk to pedestrians;

- It was noted the particular effect of this along the B1111 between the A1066 and the A11 through the villages of East Harling, Garboldisham and Roudham;
- It was aware that the HGV route hierarchy has not been updated for over 20 years, during which time lorry sizes have increased and many roads and villages have changed significantly.
- Ask officers to investigate what can be done to improve the current situation along the B1111 between Garboldisham and Roudham, and to come back to the EDT committee with options to improve the situation and examine the potential for similar revisions across the county, in other areas seriously affected.

## 7. Highways England - A47

7.1 The Committee received a presentation from representatives from Highways England. (**Appendix B**)

7.2 The following points were raised during the following discussion:-

- In response to a query regarding the Acle Straight, the Committee were informed that the Acle Straight and the section on the A47 through West Winch were the next priority schemes for NCC.
- The safety work due to be carried out on the Acle straight must take into account the future dualling of the road.
- In response to a question regarding upgrading the Easton roundabout the Committee were advised that Highways England were currently in the options stage of the project and would continue to consult with stakeholders including the A47 Alliance to understand the needs of the area.
- Members raised concerns regarding the lack of communication on road closures, in particular near Burlingham and the closure of a layby with no explanation or notice provided.
- The officer from Highways England advised that good communication with the public was a priority and they would look into the two examples given.
- Following the recent flooding on the A47, members queried whether the maintenance of the A47 was being dealt with properly and were advised that Highways England recognised that there had been issues in the past. However, there was currently a large programme of works for the A47 which were being regularly worked on.
- The Committee raised concerns regarding the rising number of KSI on Norfolk's roads and were advised that money had been ring-fenced for road safety projects but that Highways England could not deliver these alone and working collaboratively with partners was important.

- The Committee were informed that Highways England had a sizeable budget for maintaining the roads with £70m budget for the East Anglian region; the £300m allocated from the autumn statement was in addition to this amount.

7.3 The Committee noted and thanked Mr Amor and Mr Kulathamani for their presentation.

## **8. Countryside access – ICAT aims and opportunities for funding beyond the public sector**

8.1 The Committee received a presentation (**Appendix C**) from the Countryside and Coastal Manager and ICAT Trustees.

8.2 The Chairman invited Cllr H Cox to address the Committee.

Cllr H Cox advised that this project was not just aimed at those involved with sport but was to get people active, create a sense of belonging and make connections within the community.

8.3 The Committee **Agreed** to support the project.

## **9. Update from Economic Development Sub Committee**

9.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which provided an update on the issues and actions from the Economic Development Sub-Committee from the 21 January 2016 meeting.

9.2 In reference to the apprenticeship update, the Committee were advised that only apprenticeship starts were currently recorded but it would be looked into whether recording of completed apprenticeships and successful moves into paid employment could be done.

9.3 The Committee noted the update and actions from the January 2016 Economic Development Sub-Committee.

## **10. Highway Parish Partnership Schemes 2016/17**

10.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which set out the proposed Parish Partnership programme for 2016/17 following analysis and review of the applications submitted.

10.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- The department had received an extra £80k from the Safety Camera Partnership.
- Felbrigg roundabout was an example of how the match funding could work effectively. Many parishes were affected by the need for this infrastructure to be put in and therefore many contributed. There was still £42k left to raise but so far it had been very successful.

- As the highway rangers were already carrying out pothole repairs it was felt that this subject area could be removed from the partnership scheme.

10.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve all bids listed in Appendix C for inclusion in the Parish Partnership Programme for 2016/17
2. Approve the future inclusion of 'School Keep Clear' carriageway markings when supported by the relevant school as viable bids under the scheme.
3. Remove pothole repairs on minor roads (i.e. not A or B roads) within the scope of bids

## 11. Performance and Risk - Monitoring report (Quarter 3)

11.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which provided the Committee with information on the latest monitoring position for the relevant services from the Community and Environmental Services department, for 2015-16.

11.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- The Committee noted that in three weeks there would be no more landfill in Norfolk and this was a great achievement.
- Concerns were raised regarding planning in the right areas and applications for development on unsustainable land. It was understood that this is primarily an issue for district councils but that officers would work with the districts to help and provide advice.
- Concerns were raised regarding the levels of CO2 emissions from street lighting and queried the LED lighting scheme that was meant to be implemented to help with this. The Committee were informed that the LED scheme was being rolled out and was further reducing CO2 emissions.
- The Smartcard scheme should help speed up the buses as it would take less time for people to pay for a ticket and therefore this would help create less pollution.

11.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. Review and comment on the performance and risk information
2. Consider any areas of performance or risk that require a more in-depth analysis
3. Confirm, subject to comment and any further work, this committee's set of vital signs performance indicators
4. Agree that the vital signs indicators that relate to the economy are reported to the Economic Development Sub-Committee.

## 12. Finance Monitoring report

12.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services providing information on the latest monitoring position for

the relevant services from the Community and Environmental Services department, for 2015-16.

- 12.2 The Committee noted the forecast out-turn position for the Environment Development and Transport Committee.

### **13. Air Quality Management**

- 13.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which provided information about the recent DEFRA consultation and the response submitted by Norfolk councils. Statutory air quality responsibilities for Norfolk County Council continue to be implemented in close liaison with the District Councils across Norfolk with the aim of reducing dangerous NOx in the air from traffic emissions.
- 13.2 The Chairman received on behalf of the Committee a petition with 1,465 signatures collected in Norwich to support the reduction in carbon emissions produced from buses in the city centre.
- 13.3 The following points were raised during the discussion:-
- The building of the NDR should help with through traffic in the city.
  - There was an Air Quality Group that met quarterly which intended to make its minutes public so that any decisions and updates were available to view.
- 13.4 Mr A Boswell proposed, seconded by Mr T East that the committee consider the 5 point action plan (**Appendix D**) and ask officers to bring back a report on what might be obtainable.

The Committee **Agreed**.

- 13.5 The Committee **RESOLVED** that:-
- Norfolk County Council continue to work closely and proactively with district council environmental protection colleagues on ensuring appropriate air quality action areas are identified and appropriate mitigation sought and implemented.
  - Officers bring back a report on what might be obtainable from the 5 point plan suggested by members.

### **14. Silica Sand Review of the Minerals Site Specific Allocations Plan: Pre-Submission and Submission stages**

- 14.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which provided information on the proposed site and defined areas of search and contains the proposed Pre-Submission document, draft Sustainability Appraisal Report and draft Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 14.2 The Committee **Agreed** to recommend to the County Council to:-

1. Authorise the Executive Director of CES to make any further necessary minor corrections, factual updates, formatting changes and other non-material changes that are identified prior to the publication of the Silica Sand Review Pre-Submission document; 73
2. Agree the publication of the Silica Sand Review Pre-Submission document (incorporating any later suggested modifications approved under recommendation 1), for representations to be made, over a six-week period during May and June 2016, in accordance with Regulation 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012;
3. Authorise the Executive Director of CES, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of EDT Committee, to review the Pre-Submission representations made. If no fundamental weaknesses are identified, submit the Silica Sand Review (and supporting/background information) for independent examination in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
4. Authorise the Executive Director of CES to grant the Inspector the power to formally request that he/she makes any necessary main modifications under section 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) that he/she judges necessary to make the Silica Sand Review of the Minerals Site Specific Allocations Plan 'sound'; and
5. Authorise the Executive Director of CES to propose and/or agree appropriate amendments/modifications to the Silica Sand Review during the examination stage.

## **15. Norfolk County Council Planning Obligations Standards – April 2016 Update**

- 15.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which considered the proposed amendments/updates to the County Council's Planning Obligations Standards (2016).
- 15.2 The Committee raised concerns regarding the requirement for 78,000 additional houses to be built and the effect on health care provision in the areas affected.

The Committee **Agreed** to add to the recommendations that officers consider in partnership with the district planning authorities to look at future health care provision when considering large developments.

- 15.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** that the amended Standards are adopted from 1st April 2016 and that officers write to the respective District Councils to inform them of the new updated Standards and to consider in partnership with the district planning authorities to look at future health care provision when considering large developments.

## **16. Great Yarmouth Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group**

- 16.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which outlined the revised Terms of Reference for the Great Yarmouth Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group.
- 16.2 The Committee noted that the recent traffic conditions in Great Yarmouth highlighted the importance of the focus of this group.
- 16.3 The Committee **Agreed** the terms of reference for the Great Yarmouth Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group shown in Appendix A of the report and that the three Norfolk County Council members to be appointed to this group should be:

Mr G Plant  
Mr M Castle  
Mr B Iles

## **17. Decisions taken under delegated authority**

- 17.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which set out other relevant decisions taken under delegated powers by the Executive Director within the Terms of Reference of this Committee, since the last meeting on 29 January 2016.
- 17.2 The Committee noted the update.

## **18. Forward Plan**

- 18.1 The Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which set out the Forward Plan for the Environment, Development and Transport Committee.
- 18.2 The Committee confirmed that verbal updates from the member working groups would be added to the Forward Plan as a standing item.
- 18.3 The Committee **Agreed** the Forward Plan.

The meeting closed 12:36pm.

**Chairman**



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