

Gull Wing Key Stakeholder Group Minutes

Friday 12th February 2021, 10:00-12:00 | Virtual



Attendees	
Peter Aldous MP - Chair Andrew Jarvis - East Suffolk Council Andrew Pearce – Suffolk County Council Bryn Griffiths – Suffolk County Council Cllr Alison Cackett - East Suffolk Council Cllr Amanda Frost – Lowestoft Town Council Cllr Ben Falat – Oulton Broad Parish Council Cllr Craig Rivett - East Suffolk Council Cllr James Reeder - Suffolk County Council Cllr Matthew Hicks - Suffolk County Council Cllr Norman Brooks - East Suffolk Council Cllr Peter Byatt - East Suffolk Council	Cllr Revd. Mark Bee – Suffolk County Council Desi Reed - East Suffolk Council Jennifer Cushion – Lowestoft & Waveney Chamber of Commerce Kate Ellis – East Suffolk Council Katherine Potts - Suffolk County Council Lewis Boudville – East Suffolk Council Paul Ager – Associated British Ports Paul Wood – East Suffolk Council Richard Perkins – Suffolk Chamber of Commerce Simon Bretherton – Suffolk County Council Warren Hoskins-Davies - East Suffolk Council
Apologies	
Ben Matthews – Suffolk County Council Charles Baker – Network Rail Chris Starkie - NALEP Christos Galanopoulos – Highways England Ellen Goodwin - NALEP Gary Bellward - East Suffolk Council Jonathan Kerr - Farrans Karen Staples - East Suffolk Council	Paul Mackie - East Suffolk Council Phil Harris - East Suffolk Council Philip Ridley - East Suffolk Council Tamzen Pope - East Suffolk Council Tony Barrow – Highways England

	Description	Lead
1	Welcome and apologies. Peter asked if there were any comments regarding the last meetings minutes – no comments were received.	Peter Aldous MP
2	Introduction to Simon Bretherton, Gull Wing Project Director Simon joined the team in January 2021, coming from a role with Network Rail where he was Project Director for major infrastructure projects. Simon has a wealth of experience in engineering across highways, bridge development and railways. Based in Ipswich, Simon is familiar with Suffolk, and will spend several days per week in Lowestoft when the project picks up and COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.	Simon Bretherton
3	Political Update As we move to the construction phase, Peter’s role on the project has now changed, as there is no longer a need to make the case for planning and funding from the Department for Transport (DfT). However, Gull Wing remains in the spotlight politically as there are now two bridges being constructed in the East which Government consider as significant investments, especially as infrastructure is now being seen as playing a part in COVID-19 recovery. It will therefore be critical that the bridge is delivered on time and provides the benefits Suffolk County Council stated it would achieve in the business plan. As the project progresses, Peter will be reporting back between Suffolk County Council and Government ministers as the project progresses. Cllr Hicks advised that Peter’s role, assisting with communication between various parties, is crucial to remaining on schedule.	Peter Aldous MP
4	Project Progress Update As we welcome Simon to the team, Andrew will continue contribution to the project as Project Manager. In recent weeks, we have seen a number of site staff and specialist subcontractors, recruited by Farrans to support the project. Farrans in-house specialists will be coming from Ireland and other Farrans locations for the construction phase, but their new Communication and Engagement Officer lives locally and took up her post in early February.	Bryn Griffiths / Simon Bretherton

	<p>The project itself is picking up pace, with further planning now being undertaken and site access and start of construction planned for the Spring, subject to the discharge of various Development Consent Order (DCO) requirements. Current activities on site are trial-hole investigation works for Anglian Water, there was a brief piece in the press regarding an associated temporary road closure last week. Farrans and Suffolk County Council are currently finalising agreement of the works programme.</p> <p>In terms of local benefits, Farrans are currently leasing office space at Riverside Business Centre, before moving to a site office. Money is being spent locally with staff staying at local hotels, and a Meet the Buyer event will take place in March to engage with local suppliers.</p> <p>Project next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to Plan and Mobilise • Potential photocall event in the Spring. • Access to Land will be taken from Spring 2021 • Utility Diversions and Enabling Works will start in Spring 2021 • Detailed Traffic Management plans under detailed review <p>Inevitably with such a big construction project, there will be some unavoidable disruption to local traffic during the construction of the Gull Wing. However, we will communicate this information locally in advance of each stage of the works. Peter noted that it takes very little for gridlock to occur in Lowestoft and reiterated the importance of monitoring other works in the area (planned or unplanned) that could cause additional disruption to try to mitigate this.</p> <p>Throughout the construction phase, we will be monitoring the social values of the project such as local employment and training.</p>	
5	<p>Communications</p> <p>Since the last meeting, a joint press release was issued at the beginning of February for both Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth bridge projects to promote the investment in the region. The County Council team is currently working on a communications and engagement strategy with Farrans. The aim is that we will at all times be a “good neighbour”, with regards to early notification of works affecting residents, businesses and road networks</p> <p>In conjunction with Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, a Meet the Buyer event will be held on 3rd March – details can be found on Suffolk Chamber of Commerce’s website.</p> <p>The new website for the bridge is now available. Gull Wing Key Stakeholder minutes will also be hosted on this site (www.gullwingbridge.co.uk)</p> <p>Suffolk County Council have been working with Farrans and local partners to ensure the social benefits of the bridge are realised. During National Apprenticeship week (8th-14th February 2021), Farrans delivered a webinar to East Coast College, a link to which can be found here: National Apprenticeship Week 2021 - East Coast College</p>	Katherine Potts
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>Cllr Frost wondered if Simon would be able to join a Lowestoft Town Council meeting to introduce himself to the Council. Katherine noted that Simon will be presenting at the Lowestoft Annual Assembly in March – this would include the Town councillors.</p> <p>Cllr Brooks noted that the travel time between Ipswich and Lowestoft brings up the need for improvements on the A12 between the two towns, especially with the Gull Wing. Bryn noted that Suffolk County Council Highways are currently consulting on improvements along the Woodbridge and Martlesham sections of the A12 – information is available here: A12 improvements: A14 ‘Seven Hills’ to A1152 Woods Lane consultation</p>	All

	Meeting was drawn to a close. Next meeting - Friday 16 th April, 10:00-12:00	
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