

Lake Lothing Third Crossing Key Stakeholder Group Agenda

Friday 12th June 2020, 13:30-15:00 | Microsoft Teams



Attendees	Apologies
<p>Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney (Chair) Andrew Pearce, Suffolk County Council Bryn Griffiths, Suffolk County Council Cllr Amanda Frost, Lowestoft Town Council Jennifer Cushion, Lowestoft & Waveney Chamber of Commerce Christos Galanopoulos, Highways England Cllr Craig Rivett, East Suffolk Council Katherine Potts, Suffolk County Council Desi Reed, East Suffolk Council Kate Ellis, East Suffolk Council Cllr Norman Brooks, East Suffolk Council Paul Wood, East Suffolk Council Andy Jarvis, East Suffolk Council Richard Perkins, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce Philip Ridley, East Suffolk Council Cllr Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Council Cllr Alison Cackett, East Suffolk Council Cllr Peter Byatt, East Suffolk Council Carolyn Barnes, East Suffolk Council Cllr James Reeder, Suffolk County Council Warren Hoskins-Davies, East Suffolk Council Tamzen Pope, East Suffolk Council Sue Meekin, East Suffolk Council Tom Duit, Associated British Ports</p>	<p>Chris Starkie, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership Sharon Bleese, East Suffolk Council Paul Ager, Associated British Ports Jon Barnard, Project Management Consultant Gary Bellward, East Suffolk Council Paul Mackie, East Suffolk Council James Bradley, Network Rail Matt Brennan, Network Rail Cllr Sandra Keller, Oulton Broad Parish Council Mark Ash, Suffolk County Council Cllr Mark Bee, Suffolk County Council Michael Wilks, Suffolk County Council</p>

	Description	Lead
1	<p>Welcome, apologies & introductions Housekeeping for virtual meeting completed by Katherine Potts.</p>	Peter Aldous MP
2	<p>Political Update There has been concern about the future for infrastructure with the economic downturn. However, infrastructure projects are viewed by Government as important for kickstarting regeneration and the economy. There are a lot of people looking at Lowestoft, and this project is being viewed as the project to help rebuild the local economy.</p> <p>We are aware that it took a while to get the planning consent, having initially been due on 5th December, delayed by the general election, but was instead granted in April.</p>	Peter Aldous MP
3	<p>Project Progress Update There have been a number of developments since our last meeting. Following a 5-month delay, the DCO finally confirmed approval of the third crossing on 30 April 2020. We were confident that we would get permission, but there were concerns that there would be issues that we may encounter. The procurement process to find the construction contractor has commenced, and we have already received tenders. Due to commercial sensitivity, we cannot disclose who has tendered, but these are currently being evaluated.</p> <p>A report is being prepared for SCC Cabinet July meeting [<i>This was moved to an August date after the Stakeholder meeting</i>]. The report will seek authority for the officers to award the contract, submit the final business case to the Department for Transport and will set out the timetable for the remainder of the project. If all goes to plan, the report will be agreed, with construction commencing early 2021. There were concerns with COVID-19 that tenders would be withdrawn</p>	Bryn Griffiths/ Andrew Pearce

	<p>but this has not been the case. We have had to slightly extend the procurement timetable due to the pandemic.</p> <p>We are now in the process of issuing the DCO requirements documents to the planning authorities and other stakeholders for signing off. The progress for this is publicly available on the Lake Lothing web pages. However, some of these requirement documents can't be discharged until we have a contractor on board.</p> <p>Landowner agreements have been progressing and the issues of difference with ABP are now resolved.</p> <p>There were concerns that when we entered the pandemic the project would stall as many other national schemes have, but the project team have been able to continue working and progressing the project through lockdown which is an achievement.</p> <p>After we submit the business case to the Department for Transport, the funding should be drawn down within 8 weeks. After the cabinet report, we will have a peer appraisal where other local authorities come in to review our project and provide feedback.</p> <p>Updated procurement timeline: Complete tender evaluation – August 2020 Seek permission to award contract – expected at August Cabinet meeting Submit final business case to DfT – September 2020 Anticipated confirmation of FBC funding and contract award – Autumn 2020 Contract commencement on site – Early 2021</p> <p>Andrew Pearce proceeded to show the steering group an example of virtual project construction from the (undisclosed) tenders. During the presentation, Andrew advised that the best way to bring the lifting section of the bridge to Lowestoft is via sea barge and then proceed to crane it into position. The j-beam sections of the bridge will be fabricated in Belgium. Making them off-site in a specialised environment is a better way of ensuring quality in terms of welding and painting as opposed to onsite.</p> <p>Comments: Cllr Norman Brooks – why is the middle unit being built in Belgium? SCC comment - The competitive tendering process is reliant on the contractors to ensure that that we are getting the best quality and value within the supply chain. Sadly, the bridge is not likely to be built in the UK as it requires specialist manufacture, but we are advocating local supply chain where possible.</p> <p>Cllr Craig Rivett – is the 2021 start for certain or will there be a possibility to start in late 2020? SCC comment - Bryn advised that 2021 is a reasonable, realistic projection given the pandemic, but if there is a further outbreak this could delay the project further. Andrew advised that the critical path is reliant on the Department for Transport acting within the 8 weeks stated, and any delays could affect the issue of the contract.</p>	
4	<p>Comms</p> <p>There was lots of positive press coverage following the DCO announcement on the 30 April. This has led to a number of smaller firms to contact us to see how they can be involved in the project.</p> <p>Future comms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have notified landowners about the development consent, they will then give notice ahead of work starting. • In addition, the planning authorities (Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council) have notified stakeholders and near neighbours of the requirements documents. • The next press announcement will be surrounding SCC cabinet date and the name announcement. The contract award will follow, we will mark this with a site event/photo call. 	Katherine Potts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As we approach construction, we will work with the contractor on a joint website and a social media presence	
5	AOB	All

Date of Next meetings:

Friday 18 September, 10:00 – 12:00

Friday 11 December, 10:00 - 12:00