

MINUTES OF MEETING

Title of Meeting:	Gull Wing Key Stakeholder Group – Hybrid Meeting
Date:	Friday 13 th October 2023
Times:	14:00 – 16:00
Attended:	<p>IN PERSON: Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney (CHAIR) Andrew Pearce – Suffolk County Council Eddy Shuttleworth – Suffolk County Council</p> <p>VIRTUAL: Andrew Jarvis - East Suffolk Council Cllr Ben Falat – Oulton Broad Parish Council Cllr James Reeder - Suffolk County Council Cllr Wendy Brooks – Lowestoft Town Council Janet Craig - East Suffolk Council Jennifer Cushion – Lowestoft and Waveney Chamber of Commerce Richard Perkins – Suffolk Chamber of Commerce</p>
Minute-taker:	Eddy Shuttleworth
Apologies	Andrew Cook – Suffolk County Council Cllr Matthew Hicks - Suffolk County Council Cllr Richard Smith – Suffolk County Council Julia Bates – East Coast College Simon Bretherton – Suffolk County Council Tom Gooding – Suffolk County Council Warren Hoskins-Davies – CPE/Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project

Item No.	Item Description	Relevant business considered, facts noted, the decision taken and its rationale
1.	Welcome and Apologies	No new attendees to introduce. Andrew Pearce, Project Manager of the Gull Wing Project, attended on behalf of Simon Bretherton who had sent his apologies. Apologies announced and accepted.
<i>Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):</i>		
NONE		
2.	Political Update	PA ran through his action points from the previous meeting. These are covered later on through the presentations.
<i>Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):</i>		

NONE

3.

Project Progress Update

Andrew Pearce presented the latest project progress to the group and updated the meeting.

Works Undertaken Since Last Meeting:

SOUTHERN APPROACH EMBANKMENT

Embankment Fill completed
Precast concrete edge beams installation complete.

SAV 1-4

Main deck concrete pours completed
Plinths for vehicle restraint system (VRS) and rack in preparation
Installation of edge beams.

PLANT ROOM

Fit-out of building services ongoing.

CONTROL TOWER

Cantilever walls and slabs construction complete
Fit-out works commenced

NORTHERN APPROACH

Backfilling between retaining walls ongoing
Retaining wall facing blocks ongoing

DENMARK ROAD / PETO WAY

Paving and surfacing works for road and footways ongoing.

NAV 2-3

Main deck concrete pours completed.

BASCULE SPAN

Basculer span assembly underway in the Netherlands

Upcoming works:

SOUTHERN APPROACH EMBANKMENT & VIADUCTS

Pavement construction and installation of metal parapets

NORTHERN APPROACH EMBANKMENT & VIADUCTS

Final earthworks fill, edge beams and pavement constructions

CONTROL TOWER CONSTRUCTION

Control building fit-out continues including installation of lift.

PLANT ROOM

MEICA equipment delivery and installation

NORTHERN HIGHWAYS

Drainage and highways works to be completed and road opened.

BASCULE SPAN

Completion of bascule section in the Netherlands then transit to Lowestoft in January 2024

MARINE WORKS

3-week lake closure in late January to allow bascule installation and MEICA Commissioning.

Final marine works including western dolphin piles.

Questions / Comments arising:

Drainage

Cllr Brooks noted concerns with regards to the underpass for cyclists and pedestrians on Denmark Road. Currently at the underpass at Oulton Broads, there is an issue of drainage and regular flooding, especially during wet weather. Has this been taken into account with the new underpass?

Response:

Andrew Pearce (AP) stating there are 2 large attenuation ponds being constructed in the area as part of the project to allow for drainage. He confirmed that the design requirement was to prevent flooding in consideration of a 1 in 100 year storm event plus sea level rises. However, he will double check specifically the area under the bridge next to the north abutment. Further to this Peter Aldous (PA) noted that this is a far more modern and up to date design from when Oulton Broad underpass was constructed, so drainage will have been taken into account. AP to confirm that drainage for the underpass has been factored in as part of the project and feed back to next Stakeholders Meeting.

3-week lake closure

Cllr Brooks enquired about the lake closure early next year. How does this affect the offshore companies coming in and out of the harbour and lake.

Response:

AP noted that this has been discussed and agreed with ABP, who are in support of it. The Project will continue to work closely with them to confirm actual dates, as well as attend the Port Users Group meeting on 18th October. ABP have already been discussing the closure with marine users. ABP are working with their tenants on the West side of the bridge and looking at provision of alternative moorings on the east side to accommodate the closure where necessary.

Signposting for Cyclists on the South Side

Cllr Brooks also noted that there is a distinct lack of sign posting to Riverside when coming from the Asda area onto Waveney Drive. There does not seem to be a clear route.

Response:

AP will take this away and check what the signage plan is, and see what improvements can be made.

Width of channel under Gull Wing for shipping

Following a trip down the lake, Cllr Brooks noted that the opening under the Gull Wing bridge for shipping seems very narrow, is this the case and if so why?

Response:

AP noted that this is the perception going through, however the clear width between the piers is 32m whereas the existing bascule bridge is only 22m, so the Gull Wing is significantly wider.

In addition, Ben Falat also noted that there have been no issues raised by the Port Users Group.

Bird Boxes on the retaining walls.

Cllr Brooks asked if there was an update on bird boxes being installed into the retaining walls for the approach to the bridge, and if this was designed in as part of the project design.

Response:

AP to take away and consider if this could be part of the project work.

Future Management of Pocket Parks

Andrew Jarvis asked if there had been any progress on the creation of the pocket park on the northern side of the bridge.

Response:

AP to take aware this question and discuss, reporting back to the next Stakeholders meeting.

Tourism Signs (Brown Signs)

Ben Falat asked if the erection/amendment of the brown tourisms signs, i.e. Oulton Broad is part of the project works.

		<p>Response:</p> <p>AP to take this away and check who is responsible for the Brown signs. He noted that so far with the project, where there is previous signage the themes will continue with the new signs, however he will confirm this for the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Rotterdam Road</u></p> <p>It was wished to be noted by both Cllr Brooks and Cllr Reeder that the traffic on Rotterdam Road, which is already an issue, will continue to do so. There is a lot of parking either side of the road which will cause further problems moving forward. Further to this, although larger vehicles, such as Refuse Lorries can go up the road, it does mean that no other road users can pass in the opposite direction.</p> <p>The main concern was to avoid any negative press if there are issues with traffic increasing on Rotterdam Road which would detract from the success of the new bridge coming into use. Cllr Brooks added that perhaps this should be something that is looked at before the bridge is opened by Suffolk Highways. Lastly Cllr Reeder noted that this has been discussed by Cabinet members and at present it is not high on the agenda as there is a 5-year monitoring plan taking place once the new road network has been opened to traffic. However PA and Cllr Reeder to discuss should there be issues raised before opening.</p>
<p><i>Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):</i></p> <p>AP to review drainage for the underpass and flood risk has been considered as part of the project and feed back to next Stakeholders Meeting.</p> <p>AP to investigate what the signage plan is for cyclists integration on the Southern road network</p> <p>AP to investigate the installation of Bird Boxes and see if it is part of the current design, or if feasible.</p> <p>AP to confirm what progress has been made regarding creation of a Pocket Parks.</p> <p>AP to confirm what changes will be provided for in relation to Brown Tourism signs.</p>		
4.	<p>Communications and Community Involvement</p>	<p>ES gave an update on Community involvement and general communications.</p> <p>Cllr Brooks noted several community events that the project could be involved in. Details to be forwarded to ES to see if the project can be involved.</p> <p>Jennifer Cushion wished to note that Lowestoft Vision get involved in the celebrations of the opening, as well as Oulton Broad High Street</p>

Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):

NONE

5.	Any Other Business	None Noted
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Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):

10.	Meetings for 2023	Friday 8 th December 2023 – 14:00 (Hybrid)
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Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):