

A46 Member Partnership

**Tuesday 26th September 2017, 2-4pm
Worcestershire County Council**

Present:

Members:

Cllr Vernon Smith (Chair), Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Alistair Adams, Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Elaine MacTiernan, Tewkesbury Borough Council
Cllr Heather Timms, Rugby Borough Council
Cllr Peter Richards, Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Cllr Bradley Thomas, Wychavon District Council

Highways England:

Serena Howell (SH), Asset Manager - Worcestershire
Lisa Maric (LM), Asset Manager - Coventry & Warwickshire
Colin Jackson (CJ)

Officers:

Adrian Hart (AH), Warwickshire County Council
Amanda Lawson-Smith (ALS), Gloucestershire County Council
Stuart Maxwell (SM), Leicester City Council
Shawn Riley (SR), Wychavon District Council
John Careford (JC), Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Annette Roberts (AR), Tewkesbury Borough Council
Ian Vears (IV), Leicestershire County Council
Dave Barber (DB), Warwick District Council
Karen Hanchett (KH), Worcestershire County Council
Justine Young (JY), Worcestershire County Council

Apologies:

Cllr Adrian Hardman, Wychavon District Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Ken Pollock, Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Jeff Clarke, Warwickshire County Council
Nick Dauncey, Warwickshire County Council
Ian Edwards, Worcestershire Local Enterprise
Jeremy Williamson, Cheltenham Borough Council
Cllr Andrew McKinlay, Cheltenham Borough Council
Cllr David Welsh, Coventry City Council

Item 2 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Key Actions –

- Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2017 were agreed.
- Progress with the Midlands Motorway Hub Study will now be reported at the next meeting in January 2018.

Item 3 - M5 Oldbury Viaduct – A presentation was provided by Colin Jackson of Highways England. A copy of the presentation was subsequently circulated to the group.

The presentation covered the following issues:

- The works are located between junctions 1 and 2 of the M5 near Oldbury in the West Midlands.
- The viaduct is 50 years old and the repairs were overdue.
- The two lane closures will be in place until Autumn 2018 with the view to having three narrow lanes open in Spring 2019.

- Lane reductions and speed restrictions are causing the traffic congestion from junction 4 of the M5. The delays can be in excess of 45 minutes. The reason for reducing traffic to one lane at junctions 4 is to reduce the amount of the flow of traffic by 2500 vehicles per hour on this section, and encourage a proportion of through traffic to seek an alternative route via the M42 and M6.
- Drivers are being encouraged by signage to utilise alternative routes.
- Highways England is aware of the complaints and the situation is being monitored. Sandwell MBC has said that it will withdraw its funding contribution for the repairs if the restrictions adversely impact on their highway network.
- The Prism Model was selected to best reflect traffic conditions on this part of the network. Highways England stated that the model was being used to continuously monitor the conditions during the works. Members questioned the reasoning for using Prism as it did not appear to be alleviating the disruption.
- Highways England confirmed that they are currently on schedule for scheme completion in Autumn 2018. Members asked why more media coverage is not being deployed and whether Satellite Navigation systems should be updated for drivers to select the fastest route.

Following the presentation, concern was expressed by Cllr Elaine MacTiernan on the statement that the works had not been undertaken previously as they had been labelled as too difficult. She sought confirmation from CJ on how many other works had not been undertaken for this reason.

Cllr Elaine MacTiernan also asked for clarification on the role of Highways England Traffic Officers. CJ and LM stated the Traffic Officers were there to patrol the network and deal with incidents.

Cllr Alistair Adams expressed concern with the significant impact the works were having on Worcestershire's roads and in particular the impact on Bromsgrove. He suggested an alternative Traffic Management Plan should be introduced that would lessen the impact on Worcestershire. It was agreed that Worcestershire through Councillor Ken Pollock would write to Highways England detailing their concerns and suggesting an alternative arrangement.

Item 4 – Local Plan Development Pressures

AH invited the LPA's to present their proposals:

Warwick District

- Between 2011-2029, 17,000 new homes will be developed, currently 6000 have been given planning permission in the Warwick/Leamington Spa area.
- 2000 on the eastern edge of Kenilworth.
- Employment allocation of 70 hectares of land for the Jaguar Land Rover World Headquarters will have a direct impact on the A45/A46.

Wychavon District

- SR highlighted a number of sites across Wychavon.

- Cllr Alistair Adams expressed concern that any major development on the former MOD site at Long Marston will have a significant impact on the villages of Badsey and Bretforton. These areas already have a high percentage of HGV's.
- It was noted that the A46 Evesham bypass is already congested at times and further allocated development in Evesham will impact on this.

Stratford-on-Avon District

- JC set out that 14,600 houses required to 2031 but 16,000 identified as follows in the vicinity of the A46 corridor:
 - 3,500 in Stratford-upon-Avon
 - 500 in Alcester
 - 700 in Bidford
 - 1,000 at Meon Vale
 - 2,100 at Long Marston (3,500 in total)
 - 25ha of employment land proposed at Wildmoor
- Improvements to the A46 at Bishopton and Wildmoor are needed to mitigate the impacts of Local Plan growth.

Tewksbury

- AR talked through the developments within the JCS adjacent to M5 Junction 9. The MOD site at Ashchurch was an allocation within the emerging JCS but as there is some concern that it might not be capable of delivering within the plan period.
- There are other sites in the area being considered and KH stated the concern with the Mitton site coming forward in advance of any improvement scheme at Junction 9.

Leicestershire

- SM presented a plan from their Local Plan consultation which identified a number of significant developments that will impact on the A46.

AH suggested that all of the data presented should be captured on a set of plans for the route. Cllr Vernon Smith agreed it would be very helpful to have all of the developments mapped as this will show the impact on the A46. DB has agreed to coordinate this information in terms of shape files from the various LPAs.

Item 5 – A46 Prospectus

- The second draft of the prospectus has been completed and sent to members of the group. Comments/feedback required by 6th October 2017. Case studies are needed for the completion of the prospectus, along with any related photographs. Once finalised the prospectus should be sent out to all District Councils, County Councils and MP's to get all them all on board.
- Cllr Vernon Smith called on officers to work with their Members to add anything they feel appropriate to the prospectus.

Item 6 – Highways England Update

- HE currently collating information to inform the forthcoming Strategic Road Network Initial Report. This will be subject to consultation by DfT during Winter 2017/18. The document will be a statement of what is needed rather than a list of

schemes or a delivery plan. Cllr Vernon Smith stated the A46 Partnership Group will provide a response to the consultation.

- M6 Junctions 2-4 Smart Motorway – the HE team are willing to present at the next or a future meeting. The scheme is due to commence in March 2018 and will be a 25 month construction period.
- M40/M42 – Smart motorways to be incorporated on the M42 between junctions 3 and 4 and between junction 3A and M40 junction 16. The HE team is willing to present the scheme at a future meeting.

Item 7 – Midlands Connect Update

AH stated he would not go through everything due to time constraints but the headlines were as follows:

- A46 Strategic Corridor Study due to be commissioned shortly.
- Midlands Motorway Hub Study initial report is expected in the next couple of months and once it has been received AH will invite Kevin Harvey to attend a future meeting to present the study findings.
- Ongoing work to identify the Major Road Network for the Midlands, which will include a third tier of strategic routes that are the responsibility of Local Highway Authorities. Funding for improvements to this network will become available post-2020 from hypothecated Vehicle Excise Duty.
- Proposals for Midlands Connect to become a formal Sub-National Transport Body are progressing. Date for formal proposition to be considered by Parliament has been put back by 12 months due to Brexit.

AH agreed to circulate a detailed summary of the current Midlands Connect work programme.

Item 8 – A46 Action Plan update

AH stated that he had made a number of updates to the Action Plan, the purpose of which is to make Members aware of what works are going on within the corridor. It is a live document and will continue to be updated to highlight the investment being undertaken along the section of the A46 covered by the Partnership.

Item 9 – Media Issues

- Media release to be undertaken when the A46 Prospectus is finalised and released.
- Consider potential launch in conjunction with MPs

Item 10 – Future Items

- M6 Junctions 2-4 Smart Motorways.
- Midlands Motorway Hub Study.
- A46 Strategic Corridor Study.
- DfT Strategic Road Network Initial Report Consultation.

Item 11 – AOB

- None.

Date of Next meeting: 23rd January 2018, 2-4pm, Leicestershire County Council, Glenfield, Leicester.

