



Norwich Western Link & A47 North Tuddenham to Easton – Local Liaison Group (LLG) minutes

Meeting details

- Date: **Wednesday 22 October 2025**
- Time: 5.30pm to 7.15pm
- Venue: Costessey Centre, Costessey
- Chairperson: David Allfrey, NCC
- Minute taker: Viv Thomas, NCC

Attendees

- David Allfrey (DA), Assistant Director Infrastructure Delivery, NCC
- Marcin Kurek (MKu), Project Manager, Infrastructure Delivery, NCC
- Susie Lockwood (SL), Senior Communications Officer – Infrastructure Projects, NCC
- Gavin Broad (GBr), Project Manager, NCC
- Martin Dixon (MD), Network Co-ordinator, Highways, NCC
- Nikki Rowley-Todd (NR), A47 Senior Project Manager, National Highways
- Frank Hughes (FH), Stakeholder Engagement Manager, National Highways
- Vince Forster (VF), Project Manager, National Highways
- Jim Freeman (JF), Stakeholder Manager, Galliford Try
- Christopher Puttrell (CP), Traffic Management Manager, Galliford Try
- Russell Pilkington (RP) - Skanska (Thickthorn)
- Andie Taylor (AT) - Skanska (Thickthorn)
- Mark Kenney (MKen) - Honingham PC
- Jane Fraser (J Fr) - Kimberley and Carleton Forehoe PC
- John Morse (JM) - Marlingford and Colton PC
- Janet Latchford (JL) - Taverham PC
- Dawn Clarke (DC) - Great Witchingham PC
- John Hurst (JH) - Morton-on-the-Hill PC
- Graham Everett (GE) - Drayton PC
- Clare Morton (CM) - Weston Longville PC
- Sara Harrold (SH) - Barford and Wramplingham PC

- Jenny McCloskey (JH) - Costessey TC
- Cllr Mike Sands (MS) - Bowthorpe PC
- Cllr John Cowan (JC) - Barnham Broom PC
- Mike Smith (MS) - North Tuddenham PC
- Nick Adams (NA) - Ringland PC
- Ruth Horton (RH) - Weston Longville PC
- Richard Hawker (RHa) - observing for Wensum Valley Alliance
- Paul McIntee (PM) - Hockering PC
- Andrew Illing (AI) - Ringland PC

Item 1 – Welcome, introductions and apologies

Led by: DA

Apologies

- Graham Plant (Cllr, NCC), Keeley Russell (Galliford Try), Junaid Miah (National Highways), Sharon Blundell (Cllr, NCC), David Maidstone (Hellesdon PC), Wendy Saunders (Felthorpe PC), Martin Howard (Stratton Strawless PC), Kevin Hurn (Wymondham TC), Bob Harvey (Barnham Broom PC), Rebecca Hill (Barnham Broom PC), Sheila Jones (Costessey TC), Graham Jones (Costessey TC), Stacey Kent (Costessey TC), Paul Blyth (Honingham PC), Sally Blyth (Honingham PC), Peter Markham (Bawburgh PC), Cllr Kevin McGuire (Norwich City Council), Kathryn Horton (East Tuddenham PC), Graham Mann (Kimberley & Carleton Forehoe PC), Pat / John Parsons (Morton-on-the-Hill PC), Ashley Carter-Mayers (Barnham Broom PC).

Item 2 – Review of minutes from the previous meeting

Led by: DA

Notes and actions

2.1 Previous action 2.2 - Nikki Rowley-Todd (NR, National Highways) to find out if there is any wood left from trees removed as part of A47 upgrade work - and to let Jenny McCloskey (JMc, Costessey TC) know. If there is, JMc to contact Keeley Russell (KR, Galiford Try) who will fill out the application.

Actioned – Keeley is in conversation with Costessey TC. JMc said the wood would be used for a playground.

2.2 Previous action 2.10 - Key outputs list not to be included in future minutes.
Actioned.

2.3 Previous action 3.4 - A47 North Tuddenham to Easton, closure of Norwich Road / Lyng Road during the project. Christopher Puttrell (CP, Galliford Try) to share diversion route for next phase of A47 work with parishes.

Actioned; information gets shared each time there is a closure.

2.4 Previous action 3.4 - Christopher Puttrell (GT) to talk to Costessey Town Council about Easton roundabout closure and its impacts.

Meeting with Costessey TC is set for 25 November to discuss Easton roundabout removal.

JMc - Galliford Try want to talk about immediate work during construction, we are concerned about when it is in place. All the traffic will go through Costessey. A long-term solution is needed.

Nikki Rowley-Todd (NR, National Highways) - This would have needed to be looked at prior to the DCO [Development Consent Order] application going in.

JMc - The belief was the Norwich Western Link would take all traffic from Costessey. Even if a link is built it would be a few years behind the roundabout closing. It would mean an extra 5,000 vehicles going through Costessey a day, particularly affecting West End.

DA - There is a Norwich Western Link (NWL) update later in the meeting. We want to deliver a scheme that will be effective at reducing traffic congestion in the area.

2.5 Previous action 4.1 - Susie Lockwood (NCC) to check timing of speed reductions in Barnham Broom area and ensure an update is provided to relevant parish and town councils south of the A47.

An update was provided in August and another one in October, in response to an email from Jane Fraser (JF, Kimberley and Carleton Forehoe).

Mike Smith (MS, North Tuddenham) - Saw a lorry trying to reverse to Fox Lane. Even though the road is closed, drivers are trying to get through, maybe using sat nav.

Martin Dixon (MD, NCC) - It is a common problem, even if there is a 'Road Ahead Closed' sign some will continue driving towards a closure and try and get through.

Graham Everett (GE, Drayton) - It would help if signs said closed at {specific junction/location}.

MD - We do increasingly use supplementary boards at certain points where there is a real problem. Advance warning signs for a road closure must be at a point where vehicles can turn round.

GE - School Road in Drayton is closed off and it has caused chaos because people don't realise they can still access the doctor's surgery. More information would help understanding. People don't always live in the places they are travelling through.

DA - We try to get information out, but people often chance carrying on driving a certain route.

Andrew Illing (AI, Ringland) - Wanted a more positive response and a solution. There was a lack of communication with people who needed to know.

Item 3 – National Highways progress update

Led by: NR

Notes and actions

3.1 North Tuddenham to Easton and Thickthorn: NR - Everything is going well, it has been a good summer, and work has progressed well.

Thickthorn colleagues (from Skanska) were also at the meeting and were introduced.

Ruth Horton (RH, Weston Longville) - If the dualling upgrade is ahead of time, are you able to confirm you will not implement the Easton roundabout closure until the traffic mitigation measures are put in place?

CP - Church Lane will close in the latter half of next year.

DA - This is an important point for us, and we understand the concerns. We are pressing on as much and as quickly as we can and are keeping in close contact with NH colleagues. We want measures in place before the closure of the Easton roundabout.

{Post-meeting note: National Highways will try and co-ordinate but if an opportunity arose to bring Easton roundabout forward and shorten the duration of the A47 dualling project then National Highways would most likely proceed with that.}

3.2 Blofield to North Burlingham: NR - Blofield is very much the same story. Works are progressing really well. It will be opening next year.

Item 4 – A47 North Tuddenham to Easton – upcoming road closures and traffic management

Led by: CP

Notes

4.1 CP - I'm grateful for feedback from parishes at the last LLG meeting which has helped with Traffic Management design and strategy.

Wood Lane will close on Sunday 2 November until March next year. Diversions will be on the same grade of road or greater.

Wood Lane is being closed so we can construct the new grade separated Wood Lane dual carriageway junction (which will pass through the new bridge that has already been constructed). Towards the end of the junction construction (March 2026) there will be a weekend closure to complete the tie-ins.

For the Wood Lane closure from November, all diversion route signage will be text specific to the closure. There will be advance signage on other major roads to try and advise drivers as early as possible.

On local roads which have an existing weight limit in place, there will be more warning signs to reinforce the message. We will also be putting up community signage such as 'please respect our community, watch your speed'. This approach has been successful on the Blofield scheme.

That is initial traffic management - then we have agreed with Norfolk County Council potential escalation measures if needed while the closure is on, and once we know and understand any emerging issues and traffic behaviour.

Nick Adams (NA, Ringland) - Will you be putting any restrictions on HGVs on local roads, as they will try and go down country lanes?

CP - Weight limits already exist; there will be additional signs.

Andrew Illing (AI, Ringland) - Sat nav will take drivers right through Ringland village. Needs mitigation for size and volume going through a village with no pavements. Will there be cameras?

CP - There will be community and strategic signage. There is no definition of local traffic in law, you can't stop someone making legitimate use of the public highway.

AI - Have National Highways liaised with NCC?

MD - Yes, they have. It is a difficult and long-standing issue. Anybody can make reasonable use of a highway. Local signs saying a road is not suitable for diverted traffic can have the opposite impact as it advertises there is a route there. We always take a stepped approach. The route agreed is national protocol - a B road diversion (or higher designation) is used for a B road closure. We inspect B routes monthly; we grit them in winter. Another problem is the enforcement of temporary restrictions, for which the Police have limited resources. Therefore, we need to take an incremental approach to road closures and how we react to any ongoing issues.

Clare Morton (CM, Weston Longville) - Asked what triggers a step up.

CP - We employ a traffic safety supervisor, a dedicated traffic management role, and a full-time maintenance crew. Part of their responsibility is monitoring routes.

CM - If a road that currently has nine vehicles an hour using it went up to 90 vehicles an hour, what would be the action?

CP - Do feed back to us so we can monitor it, there is a regular review with NCC.

CM - We want it not just talked about; we want something done and know the timescale.

Sara Harrold (SH, Barnham Broom) - We are asking you to take a responsible attitude - it is people's lives.

Paul Mcintee (PM, Hockering) - Asked if cameras could be used.

CP - CCTV camera or dashcams can be submitted through the police process.

AI - You have permission to close roads and therefore the ability to do things to other roads too. NCC have got direct access to constabulary and should be able to sort policing of that road.

CP - The scheme has a red line boundary - legal orders applied for. We don't want to put measures in first time as there may not be an issue. Once people know it's shut then we would monitor the situation and decide if we need to escalate.

RH - You could put weight restrictions on affected roads, but the difficulty is enforcement. If there is police enforcement and cameras, drivers are more inclined to take it seriously. Would it be possible to liaise with the police in advance, to see if they would be willing to prosecute, to put that on the signage?

CP - This is on the escalation procedure.

MD - Enforcement is always an issue. We have had police enforcement; drivers pay attention when the police car there. We have to have a watching brief. We don't know for the first week what traffic will do. If there is a queue the first time they use a local road, they are only likely to do it once.

SH - When Wood Lane is shut can agricultural traffic have permission to use it? National Highways will have big vehicles there.

CP - No, there will be a 10m embankment in the way. Our vehicles will be moving materials; there will be no road traffic. Road traffic will have to use appropriate roads.

SH - You will cause havoc on the roads, not being responsible or sensible, disregard for the public and working farms. Farm machinery using that length of division will disrupt other traffic.

CM - A lot of the roads that will see extra traffic are single track U roads, and the verges are going to be eroded, especially as this is happening over winter. What is the reinstatement of verge policy?

CP - Diversion routes will be gritted, and we know that a lot of people aren't comfortable driving on roads that aren't gritted in the winter. Prior to the project we

had to undertake pre-condition survey of A47, and adjacent roads and diversion routes proposed. This was agreed with NCC.

CM - I'm concerned minor roads aren't in these categories. They will still be used by traffic. What is the strategy for checking the road condition now and after the closure?

CP - During the closure, we will monitor this. There will be traffic issues. If a pothole is identified, the TSS [Traffic Safety Supervisor] can highlight that to NCC who can instruct an emergency repair.

DA - NCC has maintenance teams to inspect too and liaise with National Highways if any issues for reinstatement and repair on the NCC network are needed.

Nick Adams (NA, Ringland) - Asked about a contact point.

DA - There is a form on the NCC website for concerns (link: [Report a highways problem - Norfolk County Council](#)), or contact the National Highways team.

Mark Kenney (MKe, Taverham Rd) - Worried about when roundabout at Easton closes, and Taverham Road between November and March. There had been fruitful talks with NCC about this. Narrowing of road at southern end. He asked why something was not being done now to deter some of the larger vehicles coming through.

DA - There isn't a single perfect solution with such major projects, and it's difficult to complete them without impacts on the network. Everything will be done to minimise the impact. There is a commitment to monitor and react as quickly as possible if there is an issue. We know day one will be challenging, despite all efforts in advertising the closures. Hopefully it will settle down and traffic will re-route. If there are persistent problems, we will look at it. There is a need to be mindful not to just move the problem from one location to another.

MKen - We will keep a close eye. Verges need protecting. There are eroding banks along Taverham Road, will have to see what happens. I fear it will be bad.

John Morse (JM, Marlingford and Colton PC) - Road was torn up two years ago and needs a repair, but nothing has happened. I have reported walls down. I feel NCC and National Highways are buck passing, and concerns about reinstatement are not being taken seriously.

CP - Any existing damage would have been prior to shutting additional roads. Got to check on flooding date.

JM - I have got a video of it. Any date after that date is unacceptable. Severe damage during storm.

CP - It was not directly linked to the dualling project, it was maintenance work.

Action: JM to send National Highways details of the issues in Colton.

Action: CP to look at whether road condition surveys were done before the drainage issues.

Action: DA to raise issue with local highways maintenance engineers who will liaise as necessary with National Highways.

Dawn Clarke (DC, Great Witchingham) - Can you explain the direction lorries containing fill material will take regarding Wood Lane junction?

CP - Dump trucks will work within site boundary. What we do is look at the cut and fill balance and take material from one area to another on site.

Janet Latchford (JL, Taverham) - Will the Ringland bridge closure for strengthening coincide with the closure of Easton roundabout? I'm conscious of West End in Costessey getting more Taverham traffic. If the bridge is closed at the same time, more traffic will go past four schools which is a problem.

DA - Assessment work for the bridge is ongoing. That is why there is an additional temporary weight restriction (of 3 tonnes). Timescales for the assessment are not known and will depend on the outcome of the investigation work. Decisions will depend on the condition of structure. Closure of the bridge would be a last resort.

JL - We are concerned. I got stuck at a pinch point on West End and 25 cars went past while I queued. I worry we will put more traffic down past those people.

DA - It highlights the need for the Norwich Western Link.

Mike Sands (MS, Bowthorpe) - Sat navs sometimes take drivers down inappropriate roads. Can you include 'do not follow sat nav' on signs?

CP - Yes, we can do that.

4.2 A47 Dereham to Easton full weekend road closure from 14 November at 8pm to 17 November at 6am.

See PowerPoint presentation 4.3 for detail.

CP - Primary work is for three drainage crossings. Same diversion route as we had in February.

Secondary work will be to install static traffic management such as average speed cameras, and various other civils and inspections.

JM - Following the issues in February, I'm concerned that bus operators hadn't been in touch with Galliford Try about what they will do this time, which is in two weeks' time.

CP - Bus operators are working on routes, but they haven't yet confirmed details.

Action: CP to contact bus operators about routes / vehicles during A47 weekend closure.

{Post meeting note: CP has reached out to confirm what route will be operating. Not had a final confirmation yet, but Konnect have indicated that Route 4 will be affected and they most likely won't be able to serve Easton.}

Action: DA to follow this issue up with the Passenger Transport team at NCC too.

Paul McIntee (PM) (Hockering) - What arrangements will there be for informing local residents who require vehicle escorts to get access to properties - and will bus services be maintained. There was mayhem in Hockering last time with the buses.

CP - We will chase the operators. Buses are not coming through the road closure. There is a bigger section shut than last time which is better for buses. I understand there have been lessons learned from last time.

JF - Residents will be informed nearer the time about arrangements for vehicle escorts.

CP - There will be vehicle escorts for properties on the A47 route itself. Other properties in Hockering can use Heath Road to enter and leave the village.

Item 5 – Norwich Western Link progress update

Led by: MKu

Notes

5.1 NCC cabinet took the decision in July to progress with a scheme, option development, option appraisal and public consultation. That work has started, identifying options for assessment. The original longlist is being revisited but new solutions will also be considered.

At the LLG meeting in July, we asked for any comments or suggestions to feed into the options assessment work. Thank you for these, which are being reviewed.

We have not been able to progress with option assessment as quickly as hoped as the Department for Transport (DfT) haven't confirmed their funding contribution. They have indicated approval in principle for the funding, but we haven't received it. DfT has commissioned a review of Major Road Network schemes. In September we responded to the questionnaire which is part of DfT's assessment.

DA - The DfT survey was in response to the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement as part of the budget assessment from Government. It is an assessment process for DfT for the continuation of funding. We are being careful regarding our spending on the project until there is a DfT announcement, hopefully by the end of the year.

Ruth Horton (RH, Weston Longville) - What is the new timescale? Previously you said you were expecting to know by next summer whether there was a viable route which wouldn't upset wildlife.

DA - We are still targeting next summer. Activity has been slowed until we get a Government decision then this can pick up once the decision is known. Devolution and election of new mayor will happen in May next year, so we also need to watch what is going on with that process/outcome. The intention is to be ready for a consultation on options in summer next year.

RH - What if you don't have a viable scheme which pleases Natural England and meets the requirements of the parishes affected by the A47 - is next summer a dead end?

DA - Not necessarily. We need to test options with Natural England. If they suggest they will refuse to give us a licence for any effective option we have a problem, but we would know this before next summer. We need to be realistic - if we can't move forwards, we can't continue to spend money. We are not currently at that point.

Graham Everett (GE, Drayton) - You are putting time and effort in, and the administration might change by next May.

DA - We are looking at the options that we can bring forward for consultation. The logic is that the consultation will happen after the mayoral election, so we will know what has happened politically before that point.

Item 6 – Norwich Western Link options assessment and demonstrating local support

Led by: SL

Notes

6.1 SL - We are asking parishes for their help. We have responded to DfT's assessment and written to the Secretary of State for Transport to make the case for the Norwich Western Link and urge them to confirm their funding for the options assessment work as soon as possible, to reduce further delays.

We also want to demonstrate wider support for securing this funding – it's possible this could make a difference. The idea is to make a collective submission to DfT Ministers, co-ordinated by NCC.

The wording below was discussed and agreed.

Wording of the letter to Ministers

At a meeting on 22 October 2025, members of the Norwich Western Link and A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Local Liaison Group agreed to submit the following appeal to Department for Transport Ministers:

“We sit on parish and town councils in communities near the city of Norwich. The transport issues to the west of the city are significant and getting worse, which is negatively impacting our residents’ lives on a daily basis. It is vital that an effective solution is delivered as soon as possible.

“We therefore call on the Department for Transport to confirm their funding towards the options assessment work for Norfolk County Council’s Norwich Western Link project at the earliest opportunity, to ensure this work can be completed and to avoid further delays.”

Action: SL to email parish and town councils on the group asking if they would be happy to have their council’s name added to a letter to Government.

Action: Parish and town councils to respond by 14 November to confirm if they wish their council’s name to be added to the letter.

Item 7 – Traffic mitigation measures update

Led by: GBr

Notes

7.1 GBr - We have provided updates to parish representatives regarding the traffic mitigation measures for Weston Longville, Morton and Taverham Road. There were no objections to the Traffic Regulation Orders for the proposed speed limit reductions. We are finalising work on the physical measure proposals with parish representatives. Commencement of the consultation on these is proposed during the week beginning 10 November.

JMc - Concerned about where the traffic is going to go; Costessey hasn’t got any mitigation.

GBr – Advised that the current traffic mitigation measures had specifically been developed as a result of an agreement made between Weston Longville Parish Council, Norfolk County Council and National Highways that was made during the Development Consent Order public examination for the A47 improvements.

JMc – Noted that Costessey West End already had traffic calming. It’s not going to stop another 5,000 vehicles a day going through. We need someone to talk to us about what the solution is.

Action: DA to confirm who from NCC will attend the Costessey Town Council meeting with National Highways on 25 November.

Item 8 – Date of next meeting

Led by: SL

Notes

8.1 It was agreed that the next meeting should be before the next set of A47 full weekend road closures.

Action: NCC to propose a date in mid-January for the next LLG meeting.

Item 9 – Any other business

Led by: DA

9.1 Paul Mcintee (PM, Hockering) - I feel the media should be briefed about A47 closures.

CP - They will be informed. There will also be information before the closure on the National Highways website and social media, which is where lots of reporters pick this up from.

9.2 Mike Smith (MS, North Tuddenham) - I've heard a rumour that if a Norwich Western Link scheme went over the River Wensum it wouldn't get approval.

DA - It wasn't a rumour, it was in our July cabinet report. It is also highly unlikely a dual carriageway will be acceptable to Natural England.

9.3 RH - Have Natural England been consulted, and if so what's their view on the solution to the traffic problems?

DA - That is part of the conversation. The focus of their role is environmental protection.

9.4 LLG member – Can someone come and talk to us about the Thickthorn upgrade?

Russell Pilkington (RP, Skanska) - There is a public information event at Ketteringham village hall on 30 October.

9.5 SH - Voiced concern about speeding in Great Melton near schools and wanted this sorted out.

Action: Skanska to review the concerns to see if it was related to the Thickthorn project.

9.6 JL - Asked what Natural England's objection was when it could be proved the existing bridges don't affect wildlife.

DA - The existing bridges were built years ago, and legislation is different now.

9.7 MKen - In the last three weeks there have been two collisions on the A47 - at Easton roundabout and Mattishall roundabout. Can the speed limit on the A47 go down to 40mph?

CP - This will happen on 17 November.

Meeting closed.