

WSCC/Arun Meeting with Highways England – 7th July 2017 – 1.15pm

The following attendees were present at a meeting between West Sussex County Council (WSCC), Arun District Council (ADC) Arundel Town Council and Highways England (HE):

Louise Goldsmith, Leader, West Sussex County Council

Nathan Elvery, Chief Executive, West Sussex County Council

Bob Lanzer, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Highways, West Sussex County Council

Lee Harris, Executive Director, Economy, Infrastructure & Environment

Gillian Brown, Leader, Arun District Council

Nigel Lynn, Chief Executive, Arun District Council

James Stewart, Arundel Town Council

Jim O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Highways England

David Haimes, Regional Investment Programme Director, Highways England.

A27 Arundel options

JO'S summarised the three options that were being considered for inclusion in the forthcoming A27 Arundel consultation. All three impact on the South Downs National Park and include some loss of ancient woodland, both of which are protected by national planning policy which is a challenge for the Arundel A27 scheme.

It was noted that option 5a – the southernmost option was the longest and most expensive of the shortlisted options.

GB explained that the "purple route" (option 1 in the HE consultation) was not a favoured option for Arun DC and ATC, largely because it goes through the town. GB commented that the "pink/blue route" (option 3 in the HE consultation) would seem the best option to meet the scheme objectives.

There was a discussion about the loss of ancient woodland that the pink/blue route would cut through. ADC and ATC stated that it was in fact mostly post WW2 replanted woodland and they felt that any lost woodland could be replanted elsewhere. JO'S observed that this route option had the greatest loss of ancient woodland at 24 hectares. It is likely that any loss of ancient woodland will need to be replaced by a greater amount than is lost, although the ratio of loss to replacement is not prescribed in national policy. It was noted that identifying sufficient available land to create replacement habitat was a significant challenge for this option. WSCC/ADC were happy to discuss land options for replacement woodland.

JO'S asked how the MPs felt about the pink/blue route. ADC confirmed that the local MP had been supportive. JO'S stressed that HE could not take a view on the options at this time and the preferred option for A27 Arundel would need to be agreed with the Secretary of State after the consultation was concluded and a route recommendation made.

ATC were keen for a bridge to be a key architectural feature and add value to the landscape. JS offered to put HE in touch with an architect who could offer options for consideration regarding a bridge. JO'S made it clear that HE would expect match funding if there is a preferred bridge design that exceeds the agreed budget allocation.

Consultation

DH explained that timescales for consultation were 22 August – 16 October 2017. The HE consultants, WSP have contacted ATC regarding the public consultations and will be holding them at key venues in Arun. LG asked for a longer consultation timeline by 2 weeks to allow for summer break absences. HE explained that they would prefer to close the consultation on the planned date but would be willing to accept late submissions from key organisations for consideration if notified in advance.

It was discussed and agreed that HE would provide display material for ADC, ATC and WSCC to use to assist in reaching the largest number of people for the consultation.

It was noted that WSCC's Full Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on 20th October so WSCC may need to write and alert HE of a late WSCC submission, if Full Council approval is required. **Action: Lee Harris to draft.** It was also noted that the WSCC Environmental and Community Services Select Committee is scheduled to take place on 28th September so the consultation will be tabled for discussion and consideration at that meeting.

AOB

ADC asked about the Worthing/Lancing scheme. HE confirmed that the consultation is 19th July – 12th September and will comprise of a series of seven junction improvements as an online scheme.

It was noted that the proposed modifications to the Arun Local Plan include proposals for strategic residential development in Ford. NL flagged this as a potential impact. JO'S stated that it should be included in the consultation and response. DH agreed to check whether or not it has been included as part of the known development.

The meeting closed at 2.15pm.