

Easton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Easton Parish Council held at
Easton Village Hall, Marlingford Road, Easton on
Wednesday 18th December 2019 at 7.00pm

1. Chairs welcome

Action

Present	Peter Milliken PM	Mike Jobling MJ
	Jan Hudson JH	Mike Bowman MB
	Mark Caton MCa	Mark Cordy MCo
	David Lewis DL	
	Francis Woodcock - clerk FW	

There were 11 members of the public attending + DC/CC Margaret Dewsbury (MD)

2. Apologies for absence: Ian Norman IN, Gillian Landles GL
3. There were no declarations of interest
4. A presentation was given by James Powis, from Highways England, assisted by Greg Stursacre, on plans for the dualling of the A47 between Easton and North Tuddenham.

It was explained that there would be a number of stages in the planning process described as design fixes. The first draft had been Stage A. Stage B would involve statutory consultation requiring the views from parish councils and individuals to feed back into Stage C. This consultation would be held over the coming months until the summer of 2020 which would then enable a final design to be developed. Throughout this period Highways England would be collaborating with Norfolk County Council Highways department though not part of the formal feedback process. Following the consultation period, the Planning Inspectorate would review the proposals. It was currently estimated that work would start on the schemes by March 2022.

Work would be starting early in 2020 on ground investigations, surveying the buffer zone each side of the scheme, and there would be surveys conducted into walking, cycling and horse-riding activities in the immediate area.

Highways England would be working with SWECO, an engineering, environment and design consultancy.

The use of designated funds available to Highways England to redress transport link issues brought about from proposed closure of the western roundabout at Easton, was discussed.

5. Concerns were raised by Ringland Parish Council stemming from the proposed closure of this roundabout and the treatment of traffic generated from Food Hub activities without a dedicated junction. It was explained that Highways England would work with Norfolk County Council but that they were responsible for managing traffic on the side roads and not Highways England. Further concerns were raised on the potential for rat-running from Taverham Road through Ringland if the side road strategy was not joined up between Highways England and NCC. It was agreed that a meeting with NCC should be arranged to detail these concerns in full. The Chair of Easton would co-ordinate with Ringland and Marlingford and Colton to arrange a meeting for the new year. PM

Further issues for which answers would be required were the potential for safety from likely frost conditions that would impact the new connecting roads, together with the specification for lighting so these could be reviewed for the new junctions.

6. Marlingford and Colton Council raised the issue of the need for an impact assessment of rat-running from the Food Hub in relation to Blind Lane, together with the need to consider access for the Food Hub more generally. It was thought that this should be the responsibility of Highways England. The question of lighting pollution was raised resulting from the new junctions and could downward facing lights help. A response given was that the junctions would be in cuttings. The need for mitigation against floods was then raised as the local topology meant that flooding already took place and the plans were including the use of lagoons. The response given was that mitigation would utilise parameters of a 1:200 year storm event with an additional 20% tolerance built into the design.
7. Easton raised the issue of the impact of the closed roundabout in regard to the split off to lower Easton, both for vehicle traffic and potential rat-running together with cycling problems. It was asked how Highways England would be able to meet a key objective of ensuring that communities did not suffer from severance as a result of their developments. It was noted that an access track had been earmarked for Hall Farm in the scheme. This appeared to be contrary to earlier comments made in relation to NCC's responsibility for managing traffic on side roads. Highways England replied that they would do what they could to ensure public rights of way are maintained. A question was asked as to how cycling/pedestrian traffic could be managed at the roundabouts. The example of there being no safe crossing at the Costessey roundabouts was raised. It was noted that MD would be reviewing this issue with David Alfrey, the NCC Infrastructure Delivery Manager. A general question was raised on how Highways England would design in junctions moving from a two-lane exit road to single track lanes.

8. Adjournment for public participation

A question was asked concerning access to drawings from the first design fix. These would be available on the Easton Parish Council website.

James Powis was thanked for attending the parish meeting, and the Chairs for Ringland and Marlingford and Colton for also attending.

**9. Planning Applications Update: 2019/2426 4 Peacock Close Easton NR9 5JD
Erection of single storey side extension**

This application was approved. Prop. MJ, seconded PM, all in favour.

10. Agenda items for forthcoming Parish meetings

- 6th January 2020
 - i. Persimmon Presentation on new development
 - ii. Agree precept for 2020/21
- For February 2020, review of the latest Greater Norwich Development Plan (GNDP) and the potential for a further 140 new houses for Easton.

11. There were no urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the council

12. Dates to note:

Easton Council meeting, 6th January 2020, **7.00pm**, Easton Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed : Peter Milliken, Chair