

LTIP meeting – Lowestoft Connect

The relaunch event went well showed new members what's happening/planned for Lowestoft. New Logo approved, and this will be used on all paper work for connectivity projects. The Lowestoft Journal was present for this and the visit to the new road and the site of the bridge (north side could not get south due to traffic congestion at the bridge). It was agreed that coverage was positive. The next stage will be to remind people what is happening and despite all the FB comments the bridge is happening. The negative can be ignored but if concerned comments can be sent on to the comms lead to see. Depending what site these comments are on if warranted they can be blocked from some.

Local Transport

Maps were shown here of road improvements – I have asked for copies - They showed priorities across the county considering long term economic growth. Funding was discussed and some of this went on the Beccles relief Road and again maps show of the towns with slight changes. In the first map Brandon and Bungay were included by dropped and replaces with Saxmundham and Leiston as these town are expected to grow. Another map was shown with transport issues due to the towns – i.e. single carriageways on major roads. Barnby Bends were mentioned but as, yet no funding secured for this.

The MASS scheme was mentioned as a possibility (mobility as a service) it's a new scheme so would need exploring its like the oyster card system.

PA emphasised the importance of the connectivity to Lowestoft on the A146 and A143, as these are as busy as the A12 at times and must not be neglected.

The development around Oswald's Boat yard had been approved and the development will take place around lake loathing.

Apart from our water taxi pontoons in strategical places were put as an idea. There has been a start-up meeting held with a project team for the cycle path giving connection to Normanston park

Road Improvements.

PA mentioned that when the road grind to a halt his inbox explodes, and that traffic is not as smooth or quick as it was. Broadband utilities have a knock-on

effect on traffic and that one of the companies did not adhere to an agreement resulting in the traffic hold up being extended along Bridge Road.

The flooding on the A47 opposite Sparrows nest has been looked at and Suffolk Highways have surveyed the drains around Sussed Road and some radical repairs are needed

Current Issues

The main problem is that we only have 2 bridges and the recent issues were due to the recent works on a house there were some issues to do with passing under a rail line and it was agreed that the works should not have taken place during the summer holidays but it is a very complex issue when it comes to road closures and they are not always able to stop them but can consider shifting them but they also have deadlines. SCC can not stop the developer/owner having gas and electric, so the work must take place. The man who controls the traffic lights can do much about getting cars through he can only see with in his eye line how far they go back. Spotters were mentioned but this only puts up the cost.

On a plus point there are no more gas works planned for bridge road – but the nutford lock will be looked at for structural maintained planned for 1-5 October over night 8pm-6am and some barrier replacements work 3rd-14th December and will take place between 09:30-15:00. This did cause despair and a lot of negativity due to the impact it has on the town. Also planned are some over night closures for 3 days

PA asked if night working was a possibility it can be considered but not always due to health and safety issues. These extra closures will be a bombshell to many of the local businesses. They have tried to put some of these together.

PA asked for at 6 wks. notice if possible and to be notified of any coming up.

It had been asked if the work planned for 3-14 Dec can be put back until January.

As we are now aware Station Square to be closed for 4 weeks for essential repairs from Anglia water. The rep for Suffolk Highways only got the call on the Friday giving him notice these works were taking place to replace the sewers. With all the exasperation in the room about more road works and disruption

he did state they have a duty of care – i.e. if the structure is unsafe it is of priority to be replaced (the Ponte Morandi bridge was mentioned here)

In February network rail plan to close bridge and Victoria Road crossing for repairs. Suffolk Highways state they are between a rock and a hard place at the legislation is wrong and the onus falls on highways but should be on the utility company to work together and save the constant digging and re-digging of the roads.

PA will liaise with Suffolk highways to see if he can do anything via the government.

It was agreed to have another meeting re all the road works around Lowestoft on 17/10/18.

It is only due to a good working relationship between Suffolk highways and Anglia water that he was notified about the station square closure as they can let him know at a moment notice the road need to be closed. Night time working is not a possibility due to bearing in a built-up area

ABP logged 75% of bridge lifts as dangerous this is purely due to traffic not adhering the lights and continuing their journey across the bridge after the lights or as the barriers had started to descend. To stop this the traffic lights sequence have been changed so if the bridge is to lift ALL lights go to red – allowing any traffic on the bridge to continue and clear but preventing any more cars crossing the bridge. Once the barriers are down the traffic lights go back to sequence allowing traffic a up to the barriers. This has reduced the traffic violations dramatically – but unfortunately not a lot can be done about pedestrians who chance their luck.

The variable message signs are to be used but there has been a slight hiccup where they were not compatible with the system that was in place, work is in place to get the compatible with the traffic systems to give motorist a heads up it the bridge is up.

The inspectors for the 3rd crossing are sent to visit the town – this is due during the road closures, so they will see first hand our traffic chaos.

Flood Port improvements

Lots of good work going on here including getting schools involved there has been an application for more money as there is none in the budge at present Environment agencies and LEP will work closely together.

The concern as winter approaches is to avoid another Dec 13, but the temporary barriers can be used but mother nature cannot be predicted but as a town with the temporary barrier we are in a better position. The land either side of latke loathing is lower than the lake and the water can flood via the ground and not always from a surge. There should be 48 hrs notice of any tidal surge.