

Local Liaison Group

Norwich Western Link / A47 North
Tuddenham to Easton Improvement

23rd July 2025



Norfolk County Council



Agenda

- 1.0 Apologies
- 2.0 Minutes of previous meeting
- 3.0 National Highways progress update
- 4.0 Norwich Western Link progress update
- 5.0 Your input to NWL options assessment work
- 6.0 Date and format of next meeting
- 7.0 Any other business (AoB)



1.0 Apologies

- To be mentioned at meeting.



2.1 Minutes of previous meeting

Actions

- 2.6 National Highways to investigate if details of contractors can be shared, so that potential misuse of roads by HGVs can be reported.
- 2.8 Jim Freeman (JF, Galliford Try) to re-send contact (Philippa) to Jenny McCloskey (JMc, Costessey TC) regarding Community Fund available to parishes.
Link to fund details was included in minutes of meeting
- 3.4 JF (GT) to get site team to investigate lighting issue on Wood Lane.
Minutes showed this had been actioned.

2.2 Minutes of previous meeting

Actions (continued)

- 3.4 JF (GT) to add Sara Harrold (SH, Barford and Wramplingham PC) to parish council distribution list to receive updates on disruptive works.

Minutes show post-meeting this was done.

- 3.4 David Allfrey (DA, Norfolk County Council) to flag storm damage issues with engineer Adam, who will pick it up with the National Highways (NH) team. Actioned, they have been in touch.
- 3.4 DA (NCC) to talk to Passenger Transport team and liaise with bus operators about A47 work diversions. Actioned.

2.3 Minutes of previous meeting

Actions (continued)

- 3.4 Jim Freeman to add all parishes, plus Susie Lockwood, to parish council distribution list.

Post meeting note, link was provided for updates.

- 4.1 Viv Thomas (VT, NCC) to add link to December Cabinet report in minutes of meeting. This was actioned.
- 5.1 NCC to add a link to Broadland Northway (Northern Distributor Rd – NDR) monitoring report. This was actioned.

3.1 National Highways progress update

North Tuddenham to Easton

- Fully in construction
- Open for traffic Spring/Summer 2027

Thickthorn Junction Improvement

- Vegetation clearance underway along with some work with statutory undertakers
-

Blofield to North Burlingham

- Fully in construction
- Open for traffic Spring/Summer 2026



3.2 National Highways progress update

Traffic management

- September to November 2025: Lyng Road (North Tuddenham) road closure
- September: Various site clearance works along the A47
- November: Static traffic management phasing starting on the A47 from November 2025

3.3 National Highways progress update

- NH website pages are being kept up to date – further information is available here:
 - <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-north-tuddenham-to-easton-improvements/>
 - <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-thickthorn-junction-near-norwich/>
 - <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/>

4.1 Norwich Western Link progress update

- Since the planning application for the previous preferred route was withdrawn in January, we have been in discussions with Department for Transport (DfT) officials around the next steps for the project.
- We reached agreement with DfT and reported this to our cabinet earlier this month. The agreement included:
 - That the Strategic Outline Business Case does not need to be resubmitted;
 - Options assessment work to be undertaken to develop a long list of options and then to 'sift' these options with the aim of reducing this to a shortlist;
 - A public consultation carried out on the shortlisted options;
 - A report brought to a County Council cabinet meeting next summer with the outcome of the options assessment work and consultation, and potentially recommending a preferred option.

4.2 Norwich Western Link progress update

Options assessment

- Investigating alternative options while a preferred option is being developed is not feasible as it would undermine the preferred option.
- Therefore, there was no opportunity to undertake this work before the planning application for the previous proposals were withdrawn and agreement on the next steps reached with DfT.
- Types of options that will be assessed will include:
 - Minor improvements to the existing road network;
 - Public transport and active travel proposals;
 - Improvements to the existing B-road from Wood Lane to Lenwade;
 - Possible new single carriageway solutions;
 - Possible new dual carriageway solutions.

4.3 Norwich Western Link progress update

Options assessment continued

- Input from Natural England into our options assessment work will be key, in order to give us confidence that any options that are shortlisted are likely to be acceptable to them.
- Based on engagement with Natural England since publication of the Favourable Conservation Status guidance for barbastelle bats, and taking account of their comments on the previous planning application proposals, it is considered highly unlikely that a dual carriageway solution within the same broad area or a viaduct across the River Wensum would be acceptable.
- Having already developed proposals for a Norwich Western Link to planning application stage, we have the advantage of having more information than would usually be the case at this point of the project.

4.4 Norwich Western Link progress update

Project objectives

Strategic priorities

- Support sustainable economic growth
- Improve the quality of life for local communities
- Minimise the impact on the environment and aim to enhance the environment
- Improve strategic connectivity with the national road network

4.5 Norwich Western Link progress update

Project objectives continued

Specific objectives

- Improve connectivity and journey times on key routes within the Greater Norwich area
- Reduce the impact of traffic on people and places within the western area of Greater Norwich
- Encourage and support walking, cycling and public transport use in Greater Norwich
- Improve safety on and near the road network, especially for pedestrians and cyclists
- Seek to avoid harm to the natural and built environment, where this is not practicable minimise harm and where that is not practicable provide appropriate compensation
- Take advantage of opportunities to enhance the environment
- Improve accessibility to key sites in Greater Norwich

5.0 Your input to Norwich Western Link options assessment work

- Our options assessment work will be informed by lots of things, including how effective the options are at achieving the project objectives, deliverability and constraints.
- We want to hear your views in response to two questions, which will then be considered as part of the options assessment:
 - **Are there any issues or considerations you would like us to take into account in our options assessment work for the Norwich Western Link?**
 - **Are you able to share any local knowledge that could be relevant to our options assessment work for the Norwich Western Link, particularly anything that may have changed since we carried out the original options assessment work in 2018/19?**

5.1 Your input to Norwich Western Link options assessment work

- You and/or your parish/town council are also welcome to submit further comments to norwichwesternlink@norfolk.gov.uk
- Please title emails in response to this as 'Options assessment' so it's clear to us that it is your submission.
- We have asked for responses by the end of the month but if you need a little longer, we can accommodate this.

6.0 Date and format of next meeting

- Date: TBC
- Time: 17:30 – 19:00
- Venue: Costessey Centre (if available)

7.0 Any other business (AoB)

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Thank you

