

**SEFTON AREA PARTNERSHIP OF LOCAL COUNCILS**  
**Aintree Village-Formby-Hightown-Ince Blundell-Little Altcar**  
**Lydiate-Maghull-Melling-Sefton-Thornton**

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Area Partnership held on Thursday 14th January, 2015 at Maghull Town Hall

**PRESENT:**

Cllrs M.Coles (Chair, Formby), G.Gaskin (Formby), T.Asbury (Hightown), D.Warren (Hightown), S.Kermode (Maghull), R.Baker (Melling), G.Lee (Melling), B.Draper (Sefton), C.White (Sefton), K.Hounsell (Thornton), Stephen Birch (SMBC, Head of Transport Planning)

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllrs G.Downey (Aintree Village), Ian Cowell (Clerk, Ince Blundell), A.Ibbs (Little Altcar), A.Carr (Melling)

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and wished them all the best for a successful 2015. He then went on to extend his best wishes to Councillor Downey whose wife is currently very unwell, then welcomed Stephen Birch from Sefton Council's Transport Division who has attended our meetings on several previous occasions, and manages the Switch Island Link Road project amongst other projects. The Chair explained he was keen to hear what is likely to happen when the Link Road project is commissioned, and about the possible impact this could have on Thornton, Sefton Village, and the access into Maghull? He also asked to be informed of any other forthcoming transport projects, which might impact on our Parishes.

**1. GUEST SPEAKER**

**Stephen Birch – Head of Transport Planning, SMBC**

**“Update : Thornton Link Road”**

**1.1 Overview**

Stephen Birch agreed to provide an update on the Thornton Link Road (Brooms Cross Road), and an overview on investment in transport in the area over the next few years. He explained that his team puts forward business cases for transport schemes, and oversees projects. In addition they are also involved with traffic management and road safety, i.e. pedestrian crossings, etc.

The name Brooms Cross Road has originated from the base stone of a cross; a scheduled monument, which remains in the area close to where the new road will be situated. Historically the Cross marked a wayside consecrated crossing place, and would have been 1 of a number around the area. During the Jubilee year Thornton Parish Council erected a new Cross on this stone base. The new road has been numbered A5758 by the Department of Transport, since it connects the M57 and M58.

**1.2 Progress**

From the offset it was known that ground conditions were not great due to the area being on a flood plain. Heavy rain caused problems getting the formation layer to the required level of stability following removal of the top layer of soil. It was explained that a 1-1 ½ foot of stone was then added to form a sub base, before 3 layers of tarmac were then added to form a wearing and surface course. The earth works could not start until the end of March 2014 due to the heavy rain. Both the foundation layer and sub base are now complete along the route, with the exception of a small area in the Netherton area. The Hall Gate⇒Rakes Lane surfacing works are now complete, and this work is continuing towards Brickwall Lane.

Surfacing of Brickwall Lane will then follow, which will include widening of the junction and existing carriageway. A drainage system will also be installed here.

Most of the works at Switch Island have been completed during autumn 2014. The final works at this location are scheduled for February 2015, and will include the installation of ducts for lighting, and provision of concrete surfacing to enable repositioning of the VOSA site is ongoing.

### 1.3 Opening

Dependant on weather conditions the project is due to open mid to late Spring 2015. It is not yet known what form the official opening of the new road will take, although SMBC do not wish to have a 'phased' opening of the road. A Charity Walk is planned for the end of March 2015 in support of Jospice, and SMBC are also planning guided walks and cycling events prior to the opening of the road.

### 1.4 The Future

#### 1.4.1 GENERAL

The Traffic modelling for the Link Road is 'future proved' to a degree. It has been designed with 2027 in mind (15 years ahead), and takes into account both current traffic flow figures and future predictions.

All future plans for infrastructure, transport, housing, and learning are connected to the City Region Growth Plan. Merseytravel now have a wider remit within the Combined Authority as a Transport Body, with responsibility for managing finance alongside the Local Enterprise Partnership. As such £120 million has been secured for 13 major Transport Schemes, and a further £41 million for Sustainable Transport Improvements. Merseytravel are currently in the process of producing a business case for the proposed Maghull North Station. This will be submitted to the Combined Authority in the next few months.

SMBC are currently looking at traffic modelling and preparing a business case in relation to improvements to Junction 1 of the M58. Similarly the A565 corridor into Sefton is also being looked at. This could involve the development of some single carriageway areas into dual carriageways.

Organisations including Network Rail and the Highways Authority have input on the Transport Advisory Group.

The Chair raised concerns over the potential loss of the local Public Rights of Way group. Steve agreed to look into this.

#### 1.4.2 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT ENHANCEMENTS PACKAGE

Investment of £1 ¾ million has been secured for Sustainable Transport Enhancement projects outlined below. This funding is related to the investment regions in the Growth Plan, and aims to improve access to those areas.

- **Junction improvements on the A565 at Crosby Road North/South Road/Haig Road**  
*- Discussions are currently ongoing with 2 parties involved to try and procure the land required*
- **Improved Cycle Access to the Port of Liverpool** – to include better Crossing facilities and to continue down towards Liverpool
- **Seaforth Accessibility Improvements Phase 2** – this will improve access to the local facilities and Town Centre and focuses on safety improvements.
- **A59 Ormskirk Road Corridor Improvements** – to include improvements to Heysham Road, Copy Lane and Bridle Way.

### 1.4.3 POSSIBLE FUTURE SCHEMES

The following projects are awaiting funding.

- Junction improvements from the 'Morris Dancers' Public House in Scarisbrick ⇨ Kew in Southport
- Improvements to South Road, Waterloo
- Improvements to Northway (A59) following implementation of the new Link Road
- Improvements to the Formby Bypass/North End Lane Junction towards Hightown
- Further inland Cycling facilities by Marine Lake to link up with the Cheshire Lines leisure route

### 1.5 Questions

- (a) Are the traffic lights staying at Lydiat Lane?  
- *Yes. It will be possible to synchronise the way they operate.*
- (b) What will the Speed limit of the new road be?  
- *The speed limit will be 50 mph in line with the speed limit of the Ince Woods road.*
- (c) Will there be any Crossing Points?  
- *There will be 2 specialist Crossings installed to connect with the Rakes Lane ⇨ Hall Gate footpath. Horse riders and cyclists will also be able to use these Crossings.*
- (d) Will the Link Road help alleviate traffic flow at Switch Island?  
- *Not necessarily. It will however help alleviate the volume of traffic in surrounding areas such as Netherton, Thornton and Sefton Village.*
- (e) Doesn't opening the entire road at once present a problem?  
- *No since everything will be fully tested and safety audited prior to the road being commissioned. This is a 4 stage process which looks at the following aspects:- Stage 1 = Design, Stage 2 = Physical Construction, Stage 3+4 = Review conducted following opening of road.*

*Cllr Hounsell spoke on behalf of the group in thanking Stephen Birch for his hard work with this scheme, and for his support and answering questions and listening to the concerns of local residents over many years.*

## 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**20/11/14** - (1) Cllr R.Baker, Melling Parish Council  
(2) Cllr G.Gaskin, Formby Parish Council

Cllr R.Baker was present, but showing as an Apology on the Minutes. Apologies.

**11/12/14** - (1) Cllr G.Gaskin, Formby Parish Council  
(2) Cllr R.Baker, Melling Parish Council

This was the Special Meeting with Steve Matthews of SMBC Planning Department. The Chair commented on how useful he had found this Meeting.

## 3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising from either Meeting.

## 4. CORRESPONDENCE

- \* Cllr M.Byrne, Maghull Town Council - 31/11/14  
- Arrangements for Fiona Clark (CCG) to attend Meeting on 8/1/15 + 11/12/14  
Advised unable to attend & requested further dates
- \* Amanda Lee, Maghull Town Council - 2/12/14  
- Confirmation of 2015 Meeting Dates

- \* Cllr K.Hounsell, Thornton Parish Council - 4/12/14  
 - No contact about Planning Application by Aldi to extend their opening hours; submitted 1/10/14, approved 26/11/14  
 ⇒ *This matter should have been brought to the attention of the Planning Committee, and not just the Planning Officer. It is feared the nearby Tesco Store may try and do the same. MP Bill Esterson has been made aware of this issue, and Formby Parish Council will be including the need to be consulted about Licensing applications into their Neighbourhood Plan.*
  
- \* Fred Forrest - 12/12/14  
 - Copied into email sent to Steve Matthews (SMBC) querying the Designation of the former Bootle High School land. The current status of this land is green space in the UDP; although the 'footprint' of the former school buildings is identified for housing (approx.63 dwellings) in the Published Draft Plan.
  
- \* Cllr Mike Coles, Formby Parish Council - 14/12/14  
 - Copy of email to Steve Matthews, SMBC thanking him for attending the Special Meeting on 11/12/14
  
- \* Richard Knight, Peel Holdings - 16/12/14  
 - Request to call him to discuss arrangement for 8/1/15
  
- \* Cllr Mike Coles, Formby Parish Council - 18/12/14  
 - Response to his letter to Margaret Carney dated 24/11/14 about Formby Library  
 ⇒ *Margaret Carney stated there are no further plans to close any Libraries. The Chair requested that we be consulted from the beginning should this situation change. Aintree Library is now housed in the Community Centre, and Hightown Library has relocated to an old Pub. The suggestion for Merseyside Police to utilise Libraries as Community Hubs was made.*
  
- \* Cllr Mike Coles, Formby Parish Council - 21/12/14  
 - Copy of email from Cllr Ron Baker dated 19/12/14. Peel Holdings are clearly unhappy with Melling Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan & want them to amend their boundaries.  
 ⇒ *Melling Parish Council has received a 7 page letter from Peel Holdings' Consultants, which criticises their Neighbourhood Plan and states it doesn't conform to SMBC's Local Plan through the provision of employment sites. This letter will be read out in its' entirety at the next full Melling Parish Council meeting. The Chair agreed to chase up the meeting with Richard Knight.*
  
- \* Cllr Mike Coles, Formby Parish Council - 24/12/14  
 - Requesting items from members for CSAC meeting on 8/1/15
  
- \* Sarah Rycroft, CCG - 8/1/15  
 - Requesting telephone number to try and arrange alternate date to meet with Fiona Clark
  
- \* Cllr Mike Coles, Formby Parish Council - 14/1/15  
 - Response to email to Andrea Watts dated 9/1/15 about the Parish Charter in view of Christina Jones' recent resignation  
 - Email from Brian Goodwin dated 12/1/15 about the ProW group, which is likely to disband  
 ⇒ *Christina Jones left SMBC just before Christmas. Ian Willman has been tasked with and is committed to ensuring the Parish Charter is actioned. The Chair has spoken with Ian today, and Ian will be invited to attend the next meeting.*

## 5. FUTURE SPEAKERS

- \* Representative of Peel Holdings  
- The Secretary will continue to pursue Richard Knight.
- \* Representative of Merseyrail  
- Re: Future improvements to Merseyrail and the rolling stock
- \* Ian Willman, SMBC - 19/3/15  
- To discuss the current status of the Parish Charter
- \* Fiona Clark, Chair of South Sefton CCG - 7/5/15

## 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REVISED LOCAL PLAN

Melling Parish Council has not yet had the opportunity to discuss this as they do not meet until next week. Cllr Hounsell stressed that the paper copy of the Revised Plan should be read very carefully to fully understand what's included and what's not. The Chair requested a Special Meeting of the group to discuss this early February 2015.

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 7.1 Bank Account

Enquiries have been conducted, and the group has decided to open a new account with Barclays Bank. This decision has been reached based on location of their Branches to our parished areas, given they are a well established Bank, and also since they can issue cards to allow the Treasurer easier access to the funds. We can have upto 3 Signatories on the account. Councillors Lee and Draper have kindly offered to do this, alongside the existing Treasurer, Councillor Downey. All Signatories will need to attend a Branch together with photographic identification and the completed application form.

### 7.2 Website

The Secretary's husband Paul is currently updating the website. In order to do this he has had to purchase software from Sandfox at a cost of £55. Those present agreed on reimbursement of this money.

### 7.3 Annual General Meeting

This should have taken place this meeting! Therefore this must take place at the next meeting.

### 7.4 Annual Event

This is proposed to take on Thursday 26/3/15 at Aintree Community Centre. The Secretary is currently awaiting confirmation of the availability of the room. Cllrs Warren and Coles will formalise the Agenda, although suggestions from member Parishes are most welcome. A possible Speaker of Liam Robinson, the Chair of Merseytravel, was put forward.

## 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next ordinary meeting of the group will take place on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2015** in the Council Chamber at Maghull Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

It is proposed that the Annual Event with Sefton MBC will take place on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2015**. (TBC)