

Agreed notes

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements Scheme

Title:	Western Area Community Forum		
Date:	4 August 2021	Time: 16:00 – 18:00	Location: Teams
Attendees:	Ged Meola (GM) – Staploe Parish Council Gordon Johnston (GJ) – Wyboston, Chawston and Colesden Parish Council Justin Griffith (JGr) – Roxton Parish Council Martin Yemm (MY) – Wyboston, Chawston and Colesden Parish Council Roger Hopkins (RH) – Roxton Parish Council Andrew Betteridge (AB) – Wyboston, Chawston and Colesden Parish Council David Sutton (DS) – Tempsford Parish Council	Hazel Gardner (HG) – Highways England Maxine Wraith (MW) – Highways England Joanna Glen (JG) – AECOM Jonathan Morrow (JM) – AECOM Samya Ghosh (SG) – AECOM Ted Doherty (TD) – AECOM Andie Taylor (AT) – Skanska Julian See (JS) – Skanska	
Apologies:			
Chair:	Mike Evans (Highways England)		
Circulation:	All members of the Western Area Community Forum		

DISCUSSION POINTS			
	Action	Action	Deadline
1	Welcome and introductions		
	ME introduced the meeting and ran through the agenda.		
2	Safety moment		
	JG ran through the benefits of staying active.		
3	Scheme run through		
	- TD gave a brief overview of the Scheme. - ME reminded attendees that the preliminary meeting will be held on the 10 August.		
4	Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP)		
	JS explained the purpose and contents of the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan. The plan will be developed further with more details as the Scheme moves towards construction.		

Agreed notes

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements Scheme

	• JS explained the traffic management speed limits along the Scheme. • Large elements of the Scheme will be constructed offline and haul routes will be created to limit the interaction between construction traffic and general traffic. • JS explained the restricted routes. The slides show which routes will be used by construction traffic and which will be prohibited. • JS explained that the number of full road closures will be minimised but cannot be avoided completely. Closures will be overnight or at weekends where possible. Closures will be communicated to all affected. • MW introduced the customer plan and how it aims to support local communities to live alongside the Scheme while it's in construction. • JS covered the diversion routes - all approved routes. Strategic traffic will be diverted early to prevent it reaching the Black Cat. • JGr asked if Parish Councils can comment on the OCTMP. JS confirmed this can be done through the current examination process. Any other comments can be looked at as the plan develops. The OCTMP can be found here. • JGr asked how traffic management will be enforced. ME responded that contractors who don't follow traffic management will be reported. Enforcement is mostly limited to Highways Englands contractors. JGr expressed concern for HGVs finding their own routes. MW responded that Highways England wants to ensure that road closures are communicated as early as possible to allow HGVs to plan their route. Measures include variable messaging signs and signs on the strategic road network. • GJ asked when the Roxton Road link will be constructed. JS confirmed, in the earlier phase of the construction.		
5	Strategic model assessment		
	• JM provided an overview of the strategic model and the four construction phases defined for the strategic model assessment.		

Agreed notes

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements Scheme

	• JM ran through the predicted 12-hour construction traffic levels and the flow changes in Phase 2 and Phase 3 across the Scheme area. • JM concluded that with temporary speeds and junction layouts on the A428, some A428 traffic are forecast to divert on to alternative routes.		
6	Local junction models operational assessments		
	• SG ran through the assessment of Black Cat, Wintringham Park and Cambridge Road junctions during different stages of construction. • Black Cat is expected to operate better than without the Scheme during construction, with a reduction in delay during Phases 1 and 2. The existing roundabout will remain intact during these phases. • JGr asked how construction helps ease traffic. ME explained that some traffic will divert away from the area due to construction and the introduction of a large gyratory will ease the flow for the remaining traffic. ME added that this is based on predictions. • GJ highlighted potential pinch points on the gyratory which could push traffic through local roads. He asked if Highways England can guarantee that pinch points will work. TD responded that implementing the link road earlier should mitigate rat running issues. The traffic management proposal will need to be reactive and in the development of the plan, measures have been identified that could be used if issues arise, e.g., if there is significant redistribution of traffic rat running through villages. ME added that strategic traffic is expected to divert elsewhere but local traffic will self-divert onto local roads, which they are entitled to. GJ added that the Parish Council can count traffic coming through the village and will raise any increases. • SG explained that Wintringham Park is not part of the Scheme, but it has been assessed due to its proximity. • SG covered the assessment of Cambridge Road. • SG concluded that localised models have been developed for all five junctions.		
7	Q&A		
	• GM asked where site compounds will be located. The main two locations are at each end of the Scheme with smaller compounds close to bridge sites. There will also be one at the Black Cat and one at Caxton Gibbet.		

Agreed notes

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements Scheme

	- GJ asked about noise barriers and how noise and pollution will be mitigated in Wybston, Chawston and Colesdon. TD explained the assessment carried out was based on the traffic modelling and this has not identified a need for additional mitigation. Noise bunding will be provided through Roxton. Design must be based on assessment carried out. - GJ asked how Roxton Road bridge will be constructed. JS responded that there won't be a temporary bridge and the new bridge (which is longer and higher) will be built before the old bridge is removed. GJ reminded the project team of the ask for higher parapets on the bridge. ME responded that Highways England is pursuing a different funding mechanism for this. TD added that the new structure proposals include for a 4m wide (plus separation) shared use cycleway/footway on the eastern side of the bridge. A 2.5m wide verge is proposed on the western side of the bride. The proposed heights of the bridge parapets will comply with standards for the footway/cycleway and verge. TD further noted that it would be illegal for horses to be ridden along the shared use cycleway/footway. - MY commented that the original dual carriageway cut off bridleways. - JGr asked for the cost of raising of the parapets and added that there could be potential for residents to donate money to ensure this. - GJ recalled a suggestion that Highways England could offer money to communities in the area and if this is the case, they wouldn't need to fund it themselves. MW confirmed Highways England can apply for designated funding which is what they are doing at the moment. There also may be opportunity for a community fund as was done on the A14 but this hasn't been confirmed yet. Action: to confirm if there will be a community fund for the Scheme and include details of this in the written response to other WCCPC questions. - JGr asked if there were any legal routes that Parish Councils or residents could take if the noise levels predicted by Highways England are incorrect once the Scheme is open. ME responded that if traffic flow is different to expected then there is a process that can be followed.		
--	---	--	--

Agreed notes

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements Scheme

	• Action: Highways England to set out the process outlined above in the written response to other WCCPC questions. • ME thanked all for attending. • GJ asked when the next forum will be. ME responded that once the examination begins, engagement will be dictated by the Planning Inspectorate.		
--	--	--	--