

# A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

## About us

Highways England is a government-owned company responsible for operating, maintaining and improving England's motorways and major A-roads. We are undertaking billions of pounds of investment on this strategic road network.

The A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dualling scheme is part of our ongoing investment; and will improve journeys between North Tuddenham and Easton and access to Norwich.

We are publishing this *Statement of Community Consultation* (SoCC) to outline our approach to consulting with the community for this scheme. It provides details about how you can take part and how the feedback received will be used to influence our proposed design.

To make sure we approach our consultation in the very best way, we've engaged with the following local authorities (responsible for areas where the scheme will be built) on our consultation plans and this document:

- Broadland District Council
- Breckland District Council
- South Norfolk District Council
- Norfolk County Council

The draft SoCC was issued formally to those local authorities in accordance with Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008. We have considered the councils' comments and have now published this statement on the consultation webpage [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E) and made it available to the local community at the following Public Information Points. For addresses and opening times please see page 10.

- Dereham Library
- Costessey Library
- Norfolk County Council
- Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library

This document also gives you the background to the scheme and how our application to build it will progress.

## **Our application**

We propose to make an application to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 in order to build and operate this road scheme. The Planning Inspectorate will examine our application and the Secretary of State will decide on whether the scheme should go ahead based on a recommendation made by the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State will have regard to the 'National Policy Statement for National Networks' (December 2014), which identifies the Government's vision and strategic objectives for the delivery of national transport networks that meet the country's long-term needs.

We anticipate that our DCO application for the project will be submitted in November 2020. A decision by the Secretary of State whether to make an Order or not is usually made about 18 months after the application is submitted.

**The best time for you to have your say to inform our final design for this scheme is now by taking part in this consultation as we will consider what you say before our application for the DCO is submitted.**

You can find more information about the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Act 2008 on the National Infrastructure Planning website: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

## **The scheme**

The A47 is part of the Strategic Road Network. The A47 from North Tuddenham to Easton is located to the west of Norwich and forms part of the main arterial highway route connecting Norwich and Great Yarmouth to Leicester and the Midlands via King's Lynn. The A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dualling scheme forms part of the Roads Investment Strategy (RIS) commitments - the RIS sets out sets out Highways England plans for motorways and major roads.

The preferred route for the scheme was announced in August 2017 and Option 2 was chosen. You can find out more about the options consultation and Preferred Route Announcement at: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E)

The scheme proposals consist of the following:

- 9km of new dual carriageway, running to the south of the existing A47 at Hockering and to the north of the existing A47 at Honingham
- two new two-tier junctions where the A47 passes over the local roads at the intersections of Berry's Lane with Wood Lane (Wood Lane junction) and Blind Lane with Taverham Road (Norwich Road junction)
- removal of the existing roundabout at Easton to create a free-flowing dual carriageway
- three bridges carrying the A47 over the River Tud and the proposed Wood Lane and Norwich Road junctions
- closing the existing Church Lane / Sandy Lane connection to the A47 with new side roads providing access to Wood Lane junction
- retaining sections of the existing A47 for local road connections and new routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders where possible, with abandoned sections to be landscaped
- constructing a new underpass for walkers and cyclists to the west of the proposed Norwich Road junction keeping north – south connectivity
- a new route for walkers and cyclists linking Honingham with St Andrews Church
- a new connection to maintain the north – south route from Honingham towards Weston Green, as the proposed Wood Lane junction cuts across an existing restricted byway
- new drainage systems, including pollution control devices. These are illustrated in the *Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)*
- diversion of some utilities infrastructure such as gas mains if needed
- two new laybys on the A47 between Fox Lane and the proposed Wood Lane junctions
- a site compound, storage areas and temporary vehicle parking located within the scheme boundary when construction is taking place

The new dual carriageway aims to improve safety along this part of the A47 road: the current road is already at capacity, and there are 14 collisions a year on average. The new road section will increase capacity and so make journey times more reliable for the public and businesses.

We will use best practice mitigation measures to reduce the risk of impacts on the environment, biodiversity, and cultural heritage, and will minimise impacts on local communities during construction as much as we can.

Your comments on the positive benefits, as well as the risk of any negative impacts, will be taken into account as part of this consultation.

## **Preliminary Environmental Information Report**

We are carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment for the scheme. The scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development, and therefore we are publishing a *Preliminary Environmental Information Report* (PEIR) as part of the consultation material and we will submit a full *Environmental Statement* (ES) with the application.

Both the PEIR and the ES will give information about the potential environmental effects of the scheme and the measures proposed to reduce those effects, such as: a detailed landscape planting layout, drainage system design or mitigating changes in traffic noise by installing noise barriers, to assist well-informed responses to the consultation.

Stakeholders and the public will have the opportunity to review, discuss and provide feedback throughout the statutory consultation process, and will also be available to provide feedback via consultation response forms available at the consultation events. We have also prepared a non-technical summary of the PEIR to better enable the local community to understand the environmental effects of the scheme.

Additional information about the scheme, including detailed maps/plans and the benefits of the proposed new road, will be included in our public consultation brochure. Copies of the brochure will be available at local Public Information Points detailed in this SoCC during the consultation period and on the scheme webpage: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E). A full list of consultation documents is listed later in this SoCC.

## **Consulting the community - previous consultation**

We have already carried out one round of consultation on the scheme: in March-April 2017 we sought feedback on our proposed options for the scheme design.

Consultees were asked for their views on four possible new route options. Of these four options, Option 2 was most favoured. Key concerns from the public helped to influence a realignment which will lead to less impact during construction and will enable the existing road to remain for local traffic to use, as well as pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders where possible.

We've now updated our designs, following our preferred route announcement in August 2017, and would like your views on this updated design as part of our statutory consultation.

More details, including the results of the previous consultation and why we chose to progress Option 2 are included in the *Public Consultation Report* and *Preferred Route Announcement* leaflet, which are available to download from [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E).

These documents will also be available to view for the duration of the consultation period at the local Public Information Points.

## **About this consultation**

It is important to us that our consultation will:

- provide the opportunity for the community to give feedback on the scheme proposals
- encourage the community to help shape our proposals to maximise local benefits and minimise any impacts
- help local people understand the potential nature and local impact of our proposals
- enable potential mitigation measures to be considered and, if appropriate, incorporated into the scheme design before an application is submitted
- identify ways in which our proposals, without significant costs, support wider strategic or local objectives

Your comments will help us achieve these objectives. We are required to take into account your responses to this consultation. We will listen to, and consider everyone's views before we submit our DCO application.

The consultation will run from 26 February until 8 April 2020. During the consultation period, we will be consulting on the following particular elements of the scheme:

- the proposed junctions and side roads
- environmental assessments and potential environmental impacts
- environmental mitigation measures
- potential provisions for walking, cycling and horse riding

Working with the Broadland District Council, Breckland District Council, South Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council, we have developed a community consultation target area (consultation zone) for the distribution of our post card informing the local community about the consultation. This is based on those in the local area who we think will be most affected by our proposed design and advice from the local authorities. We'll let people living or working in this area know about our consultation by posting information at the start of the consultation period.



Consultation Zone



## Who can take part?

This is a public consultation. Anyone who is interested in this scheme is welcome to take part in the consultation and give their feedback. We welcome all views and will take them into account before we submit our final road design.

## How will we consult?

We will use the following methods to promote our public consultation:

Method	Detail																
Consultation events	We will be holding consultation events at local venues, where members of the team will be available to answer questions about our proposals. Visitors to the consultation events will be able to submit their consultation responses if they choose to.																
	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Location</th><th>Date</th><th>Opening Time</th><th>Closing Time</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>North Tuddenham Village Hall Fox Lane North Tuddenham Dereham NR20 3DH</td><td>Thursday 27 February</td><td>1:00pm</td><td>8:00pm</td></tr><tr><td>Hockering Village Hall 3 Heath Road Dereham NR20 3HT</td><td>Friday 28 February</td><td>1:00pm</td><td>8:00pm</td></tr><tr><td>East Tuddenham Village Hall Mattishall Road East Tuddenham Dereham NR20 3LR</td><td>Monday 2 March</td><td>1:00pm</td><td>8:00pm</td></tr></tbody></table>	Location	Date	Opening Time	Closing Time	North Tuddenham Village Hall Fox Lane North Tuddenham Dereham NR20 3DH	Thursday 27 February	1:00pm	8:00pm	Hockering Village Hall 3 Heath Road Dereham NR20 3HT	Friday 28 February	1:00pm	8:00pm	East Tuddenham Village Hall Mattishall Road East Tuddenham Dereham NR20 3LR	Monday 2 March	1:00pm	8:00pm
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	Honingham Village Hall 31 Dereham Road Honingham Norwich NR9 5AP	Tuesday 3 March	1:00pm	8:00pm	
	Easton Village Hall Marlingford Road Easton Norwich NR9 5AD	Wednesday 4 March	1:00pm	8:00pm	
	Norwich City Centre Assembly House Theatre Street Norwich NR2 1RQ	Saturday 7 March	10:00am	4:00pm	
Scheme webpage	A full summary of the scheme, this SoCC, the consultation brochure, online response form, <i>Preliminary Environmental Information Report</i> and non-technical summary, and a plan showing the extent of the scheme (red line boundary) will be available at: <a href="http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E">www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E</a>				
Consultation brochure	<p>The consultation brochure contains details of the scheme and consultation events.</p> <p>Copies of the consultation brochure will be available to view at local deposit locations, on the scheme website, and at the consultation events.</p> <p>The suite of documents will include a <i>Preliminary Environmental Information Report</i> and a non-technical summary (more details below) which will set out environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures – all of which we'd like your views on.</p>				
Postcards	Postcards will be sent to local people living within the consultation zone, but who do not own land affected by the scheme.				



Method	Detail
Council and community / area forum briefings	Where possible, we'll speak to local council forums and community / area forums affected or in the vicinity of our scheme when invited. If you wish to speak to us about this, contact the project team using the details provided below.
Stakeholder briefings	Where possible, we'll attend meetings of local community groups affected by the proposal when invited. If you wish to speak to us about this, contact the project team using the details provided below.
Statutory notices	Statutory notices to publicise the proposed DCO application and the SoCC will be issued: Notice of proposed DCO application will be published once in The Guardian newspaper and once in the London Gazette. It will also be published for two successive weeks in The Eastern Daily Press, which is a local newspaper in circulation in the vicinity of the scheme.  A separate notice will also be published in the Eastern Daily Press stating where and when the SoCC can be viewed.
Social media	The public consultation will be advertised on social media channels.

In the case of circumstances where an event needs to be cancelled (for example severe weather conditions), it may be substituted with similar event(s) subject to the availability of suitable venue(s). This will be advertised locally and via the project webpage: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E).

### How to respond to the consultation:

A consultation response form will be available to help you provide comments on the scheme design. All consultation responses must be made in writing by:

- Completing the online response form at [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E).
- Attending a consultation event where you can meet the project team and complete a paper copy of the response form
- Picking up a paper copy of the response form at one of our deposit locations which can be posted via freepost to the following address:  
Freepost A47 NORTH TUDDENHAM TO EASTON

All responses must be received by **Wednesday 08 April at 23:59**.

## Information available at and details of local Public Information Points:

The documents listed below will be made available for your information and to help inform your consultation response. They will be available to view free of charge at the Public Information Points during the consultation period:

- Public consultation brochure and response form
- Scheme map showing the full area and boundaries of the scheme
- *Preliminary Environmental Information Report* and non-technical summary
- Previous public consultation report
- Development Consent Order leaflet, explaining the planning process in more detail

Public Information Point locations	Opening times
Dereham Library 59 High Street Dereham NR19 1DZ	Monday 8am-7pm (staffed 9.30am-7pm) Tuesday 8am-7pm (staffed 9.30am-7pm) Wednesday 8am-7pm (staffed 9.30am-7pm) Thursday 8am-7pm (staffed 9.30am-7pm) Friday 8am-7pm (staffed 9.30am-7pm) Saturday 8am-4pm (staffed 9.30am-4pm) Sunday 10am-4pm (Open Library access only)
Costessey Library Breckland Road Norwich NR5 0RW	Monday: 8am-7pm (staffed 9.30am-7pm) Tuesday: 8am-7pm (staffed 2-7pm) Wednesday: 8am-7pm (staffed 9.30am-7pm) Thursday: 8am-7pm (Open Library access only) Friday: 8am-7pm (staffed 2-7pm) Saturday: 8am-4pm (staffed 11am-4pm) Sunday: 10am-4pm (Open Library access only)
Norfolk County Council County Hall Martineau Lane Norwich NR1 2DH	Monday to Friday: 9am-5pm
Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library The Forum Millennium Plain NR2 1AW	Monday to Friday: 8am-10am (Open Library access first floor only) Monday to Friday: 10am-7pm Saturday: 9am-5pm

	Sunday: 10.30am-4.30pm (Open Library access first floor only)
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## Next steps

We will record and carefully consider all responses received during the consultation. We will take them into account when finalising our application prior to submitting it to the Planning Inspectorate.

We will explain our consideration of the consultation responses in a consultation report. This will include a description of how our application was informed by the responses received, and outline any changes made as a result of the consultation. The consultation report forms part of our application to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination. This must include their determination of whether our consultation has complied with the contents of this SoCC.

For more information, visit our scheme webpage, where you can also sign up for email alerts whenever the webpage is updated. If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact us by email at: [A47NorthTuddenhamtoEastonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47NorthTuddenhamtoEastonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk) in writing at: Freepost A47 NORTH TUDDENHAM TO EASTON

### Your data, your rights

On 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) became law. The law requires Highways England to explain to you – consultees, stakeholders and customers – how your personal data will be used and stored.

Highways England adheres to the government's consultation principles, the Planning Act 2008 and the Highways Act 1980 as required, and may collect personal data to help shape development of highways schemes.

Personal data collected by the project team will be processed and retained by

Highways England and its appointed contractors until the scheme is complete. In some instances consultation responses may also be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

#### Under the GDPR regulations you have the following rights:

- Right of access to the data (Subject Access Request)
- Right for the rectification of errors
- Right to erasure of personal data – this is not an absolute right under the legislation
- Right to restrict processing or to object to processing

#### ■ Right to data portability

If, at any point, Highways England plans to process the personal data we hold for a purpose other than that for which it was originally collected, we will tell you what that other purpose is. We will do this prior to any further processing taking place and we will include any relevant additional information, including your right to object to that further processing.

**You have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioners Office.**



If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact: [DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk)