

A120 Meeting notes

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Essex County Council

Purpose	A120 Braintree District Forum		
Project	A120 Feasibility Study	Date/Time	8 th February 2016
Location	Committee Room 1, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree.	Prepared by	Philippa Garden

Attendance					
Mr	Jon	Hayden	JH	Corporate Director	Braintree District Council
Cllr	Derek	Burrell	DB	Chairman	Stisted Parish
Cllr	Roy	Shattock	RS	Councillor	Coggeshall Parish
Mr	James	Abbott	JA	Chairman	Rivenhall Parish
Cllr	Adrian	Fecitt	AF	Chairman	Silver End Parish
Cllr	Iain	Ashford	IA	Vice-chairman	Silver End Parish
Cllr	Ken	McDonald	KMD	Parish Councillor	Silver End Parish
Cllr	Tony	Dunn	TD	Chairman	Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council
Cllr	Charmian	Goundry	CG	Parish Councillor	Cressing Parish
Mr	Philip	Heady	PH	Chairman	Great Notley Parish
Mr	John	Clarke	JC	Chair	Black Notley Parish
Mr	Tony	Eve	TE	Member	Braintree and Bocking Civic Society
Mrs	Susan	Eve	SE	Member	Braintree and Bocking Civic Society
Mrs	Maggie	Kingston	MK	Member	Braintree and Bocking Civic Society
Mr	Charlie	Kingston	CK	Member	Braintree and Bocking Civic Society
Mr	Mike	Bonner	MB	Treasurer	A12 Traffic Action Group
Mr	Chris	Stevenson	CS	Head of Commissioning, Connected Essex, Integrated Transport	Essex County Council
Mr	Alan	Lindsay	AL	Transport Strategy & Engagement Manager	Essex County Council
Ms	Philippa	Garden	PG	A120 Engagement	Jacobs

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				lead	
Mr	Rob	Davenport	RD	A120 Project Manager	Jacobs
Mr	Mario	Gabriel	MG	Highways Graduate	Jacobs



Agenda item	Notes	Action ref no.
<p>1</p>	<p>Welcome and introduction to the A120 Braintree District Community Forum</p> <p>CS thanked forum members for attending the first Braintree Community Forum. After introduction CS briefing covered background to the study, including Essex County Council (ECC) recognising the need for a solution which addressed the growth pressures on this part of the road network and to address the traffic and safety issues. ECC had been successful in reaching agreement with the Government to kick start the study with a £5million of ECC funding. The study would normally be undertaken by Highway England (HE) – as part of the national strategic road network the A120 is maintained by HE. The aim is to undertake a study of possible route options between now and 2017 such that Government can ask HE to process the scheme subsequently with it being included in the second Roads Investment Strategy period 2020 to 2025.</p> <p>CS set out the challenge set by Government for the study</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide value for money route 2) Establish stakeholder support for a preferred option 3) Follow Highways England processes. <p>CS reviewed the project timetable</p> <p>Option development – currently being undertaken and will continue for most of the 2016</p> <p>Public consultation - Winter 2016/17 – most likely in First months of 2017.</p> <p>ECC preferred option recommendation to Secretary of State Autumn 2017.</p>	
<p>2</p>	<p>Purpose of Forum & Terms of Reference</p> <p>PG delivered the presentation. Noting the importance of building a working relationship of trust with A120 communities to ensure that best practice is built into the statutory consultation plan and that local intelligence helps to shape local engagement approaches.</p> <p>PG stated that the purpose of the forum was primarily about communications and engagement. PG also explained the other forums that exist and said that a members forum had already been held.</p> <p>A question was raised about the members’ forum and there ensued a group discussion on the apparent discrepancy between the other forums being held in public but that the members forum was not. Members felt that the issue of transparency was paramount. PG confirmed that the agenda and meeting notes will be published on</p>	

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	<p>information would be made public. CS commented that all information about the project would be updated to www.a120essex.co.uk PG commented that there was a forward plan for uploading information to the website to ensure it was frequently updated. Members discussed the important of local plans and making sure that A120 feasibility study findings fed into local plans as early as possible</p> <p>CS and JH commented that the Councils were working closely together to makes sure local plans were based on the most current information – as it was not possible to align the timetables.</p> <p>The group discussed the influence of Property developers on the project and were reassured by CS that the technical team had a clear process for shortlisting potential routes and that this process wasn't influenced by proposals or funding from external parties. The aim of the study was to find the best route, for existing communities and road users.</p> <p>CS and PG offered to provide a presentation on the technical process for selecting and sifting route options</p> <p>One Member mentioned that that current issues on the A120 needed to be resolved and investment needed before 2020. This was discussed by the group, CS commented that HE were already looking at this and offered to speak to HE about making the findings available</p>	<p>Action 5</p> <p>Action 6</p>
6	<p>Any other business</p> <p>PG – noted that the website address was www.a120essex.co.uk, and that the project team could be contact via email a120study@jacobs.com</p> <p>Representatives of the Braintree Civic Society raised the matter of the appropriateness of their attendance seeing that most of the other groups were elected Councillors. This was not felt to be a problem but it would be for the Civic Society to review their position.</p>	
7	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>PG to confirm next meeting – via correspondence.</p>	Action 7

Actions			
No.	Action	By whom	Completion date
1	To discuss with A120 Members Forum to provide transparency and openness with members of the public.	CS / PG	1 st May '16
2	Update on HE A12 upgrades, and invite HE to attend next meeting of the forum	CS / PG	1 st May '16

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3	Distribute detailed ToR to forum members	PG	1 st May '16
4.1	PG to distribute template with minutes	PG	1 st March '16
4.2	Forum Members to provide feedback to 4 questions	ALL MEMBERS	1 st May '16
4.3	PG will compile responses and distribute to members before next forum meeting,.	PG	14 th May '16
5	Agenda item for next meeting – Technical process for selecting route options	PG	1 st May '16
6	Enquiry with HE if analysis of current issues on A120 could be shared with the Forum	CS/PG	1 st May '16
7	PG to confirm date and venue of next meeting	PG	1 st May '16