



<b>Purpose</b>	<b>A120 Colchester Community Forum – second meeting</b>		
<b>Project</b>	A120 Braintree to A12 Feasibility Study	<b>Date/Time</b>	08 June 2016, 6-8pm
<b>Location</b>	Marks Tey Village Hall, 158 Old London Rd, Marks Tey, Colchester CO6 1EJ	<b>Prepared by</b>	Kharis Wong (Jacobs)
<b>Attendees</b>	See Attachment 1		

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p>All attendees went around the room and introduced themselves to the forum and the organisation they represented.</p> <p>Mr Allan Walker was the chair for the meeting.</p> <p>There were three public observers.</p>	N/A
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Project update</b></p> <p>Chris Stevenson (Essex County Council) provided background to the project. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essex County Council is the sponsor for the A120.</li> <li>• The scheme is as the feasibility stage where there are currently a large number of possible routes.</li> <li>• The selection will be reduced to 4-5 options in January for the public consultation.</li> </ul> <p>The purpose of these forums is to inform the public of the processes involved in developing a scheme, ensure that information is readily accessible and allow the public to input into the process.</p>	N/A
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Feedback from members</b></p> <p>Philippa Garden asked attendees to provide some feedback from their parishes regarding thoughts on the A120 scheme. Feedback will be used to tailor consultation materials to the communities that receive them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Tey Parish Council: There is concern that it is getting more difficult to join and exit the A120 from Great Tey Road. During periods of heavy traffic (lunchtime on Fridays and 15:30 any weekday) combined with delays at Marks Tey roundabout, vehicles short cut through Great Tey Village and that is a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate a suitable communications strategy for Great Tey Village</li> <li>• CS to circulate the Roads investment Strategy</li> </ul>

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	<p>concern for people. The community is concerned about new housing developments and has limited internet access therefore people are either ill-informed or not informed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feering Parish Council: There is concern that the A120 route will go through Feering Parish without the parish benefitting from it. There is currently no communication on what would happen to local traffic. Feering Parish Council would like to know what infrastructure would be provided for the potential housing growth within Feering Parish.</li> <li>• Rural North Ward: Agrees that the whole picture needs to be considered, road and development.</li> <li>• Lexden and Braiswick Ward: Agrees that the A120 is highly congested and generally people try to avoid it.</li> <li>• Great Tey Parish Council: lots of housing is planned to be built however new housing should not be constructed unless a bypass or upgrade is provided first. Need a link from the A120 to the A12 and bypass around Marks Tey.</li> <li>• Marks Tey Parish Council: States that he lives on the A120 in Marks Tey and has seen it change from a peaceful local road to busy A-road. The challenge is that the road is part of strategic improvement of key national routes however it is difficult for communities to identify it as that. Communities do not want local and regional developments happening at the same time. Another concern in Marks Tey is that at the narrowest part of the A120 between Stansted and Harwich the pavements are unsafe when there is heavy congestion from Heavy Goods Vehicles.</li> <li>• Rural North Ward: There are no colleagues present from Tiptree. Will the scheme become more expensive if extended to Tiptree? How would the A120 and A12 upgrades interact? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chris Stevenson replies: The A12 has dedicated funding therefore construction will take place in 2020. The teams are working together and we believe Highways England will begin engagement with the community in the Summer. The A120 must meet the widened A12. We do not expect a significant movement of the A12 and so Tiptree Parish Council is unlikely to be affected.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Marks Tey Parish Council: What are the timescales of the consultation. Chris Stevenson replies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- January and February 2017 consultations on routes.</li> <li>- A120: Earliest construction time is likely to be 2020 subject to inclusion in RIS2 (it takes 5-7 years in planning to get into tendering. construction takes 18 months - 2 years).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A12: it is expected to mobilise over summer and consult in January 2017. But can move quickly as have funding.</li> <li>• Query around whether if the A12 turns into a 10 year programme would this threaten funding for A120. Chris Stevenson answers that it should not jeopardise funding. For information, the A12 budget can be found on the Highways England (HE) website. Currently the HE website is taking suggestions for new highways solutions from 2020.</li> </ul>	
4	<p><b>How are options developed for highway improvements?</b></p> <p>Philippa Garden presented the Highways England process to select route options known as the 'sifting process'. This included an overview of the Department for Transport Early Assessment and Sifting Tool ('EAST') used to sift options. Preliminary environmental surveys and desktop studies were also explained.</p> <p>A fictional town, Avalon was used to describe the process.</p> <p>Philippa provided a summary of how the A120 feasibility study currently fits into this process.</p> <p>Philippa showed a map with the study area that included environmental and community constraints. Philippa requested for members to access the map on the A120 website and provide and additional constraints they have identified.</p> <p>It was stated that ECC want as much information on the maps as possible to inform the design process.</p> <p>Philippa asked if there were any questions about the process. The following was raised:</p> <p>Members of the forum questioned how the budget will be spent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a £5m to £10m budget. Query whether this covers the feasibility stage or total amount to produce a single route? Philippa Garden replied that £5m funds the process up to public consultation on the options and when Essex County Council (ECC) can make a recommendation preferred option to HE. The next amount of £5m would go toward the requirements for planning permission.</li> <li>• It was suggested that ECC produce documentation explaining how the £5m will be spent.</li> <li>• It was queried whether any of the stages have been signed off by HE. Philippa Garden confirms that the project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG to circulate project objectives for A120</li> <li>• Members to review the constraints map on the A120 website</li> </ul>



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	<p>is formally in progress and stages are in the process of being signed off. Jacobs meet once a month with HE's internal assurance teams. HE are generally happy with process and have said it is more thorough than they would have done before.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Query whether there is a risk that any highways upgrade would produce a new road straight through a village as happened with the A12 in Marks Tey in the 1960s. Philippa Garden states impact to homes is a high priority constraint. The adverse impact on communities is judged as seriously as nature conservation. Forums prove the importance of communities to the scheme as they are used to obtain community knowledge and understand how to prioritise the assets.</li> <li>• There are 11000-14000 new homes planned. Alan Lindsay replies that ECC are working closely with Braintree and Colchester on their local plans making sure they align.</li> <li>• Query as to whether ECC will try to obtain money from developers as a prerequisite to them developing. Chris Stevenson replies that this is a strategic road therefore the vast bulk of money will come from local government.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Comments from the public</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about traffic through Kelvedon High Street and the new A120, A12 junction. Requires additional information on the A120 development.</li> <li>• Some attendees currently live in Suffolk but are researching the area to buy a property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure there is a representative from Kelvedon Parish Council at the next forum.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philippa Garden states: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to identify the best way to communicate with the parishes as some have limited internet access.</li> <li>- Environmental surveys will be undertaken on private land that is within study area (this does not indicate a the decided route). Jacobs will be sending out letters to owners. Parish Councillors to ensure that Parish wardens are made aware and information is put on the parish websites.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Newsletters are only distributed every 5-6 weeks therefore they may not be a suitable way to inform communities.</li> <li>• ECC have a traffic flow data bank. Jacobs are also producing a traffic flow technical note that will be the basis for design and information.</li> <li>• Feering Parish Council asks whether Jacobs are aligning with the neighbourhood plan. Philippa Garden commented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobs to invite representative from Kelvedon Parish to next A120 Braintree District Community Engagement Forum.</li> <li>• Parish councillors to discuss with parish best communication medium</li> <li>• Parishes to cascade information as they see fit on upcoming environmental surveys.</li> <li>• ECC to circulate link to ECC traffic flow information</li> <li>• Include neighbourhood plan representatives in the next community forums.</li> </ul>



Essex County Council

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	<p>that they had an action from the Braintree Forum where it was agreed that a local neighbourhood plan representative should be included in the community forums. Chair asks for a vote. Outcome is all in favour.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Next meeting</b>                      Dates for September TBC.                      Due to leave commitments, request from Great Tey Parish Council to hold the next forum from the 13<sup>th</sup> September onwards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jacobs to circulate date of next meeting by mid-July.</li> </ul>

## Attachment 1: Attendees and apologies

Body	Title	Representative		Position
<b>Attendees</b>				
Colchester Borough Council	Mr	Paul	Wilkinson	Transportation Policy Manager
Feering Parish Council	Cllr	Katherine	Evans	Parish Councillor
Great Tey Parish Council	Cllr	Peter	Chillingworth	Parish Councillor
	Cllr	Roger	Fairs	Parish Councillor
Lexden and Braiswick Ward	Cllr	Brian	Jarvis	Councillor
Marks Tey Parish Council	Cllr	Allan	Walker	Parish Chairman
	Cllr	Jackie	Macleane	Parish Councillor
Rural North Ward	Cllr	Nigel	Chapman	Councillor
	Cllr	Chris	Arnold	Councillor
Essex County Council	Mr	Alan	Lindsay	Transport Strategy & Engagement Manager
	Mr	Chris	Stevenson	Head of Commissioning
	Mr	Paul	McLean	Major Projects Sponsor
Jacobs	Ms	Philippa	Garden	A120 Stakeholder Engagement Lead
	Mr	Adrian	Dawes	A120 Environment Lead
	Mr	Mark	Stubbs	A120 Transport Lead
	Ms	Kharis	Wong	A120 Stakeholder Engagement
<b>Apologies</b>				
A12 Traffic Action Group	Mr	Mike	Bonner	Treasurer
A12 Village Traffic Action Group	Mr	Alan	Stones	Secretary
Aldham Parish Council	TBC			Parish Councillor
Colchester Borough Council	Cllr	Dominic	Graham	Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services
Copford Parish Council	TBC			Parish Councillor
Kelvedon and Feering Cricket Club	Mr	Paul	Lees	Secretary
Marks Tey and Layer Ward		Kevin	Bentley	Councillor
		Andrew	Ellis	Councillor
Marks Tey Parish Council	Ms	Gail	Gibbs	Vice Chair Neighbourhood plan
Mile End Ward	Mr	Dominic	Graham	Councillor
Old Heath and The Hythe Ward		Michael	Lilley	Councillor