

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL

HAVERHILL AREA FORUM

20 March 2017



Present:

Cambridgeshire:

Councillor Duncan Ogilvy, Bartlow Parish Council
Councillor Daniel Hoddinott, Castle Camps Parish Council
Councillor Rachel Paintin, Horseheath Parish Council
Councillor Enid Bald, Linton Parish Council
Councillor Beatrice Ward, Linton Parish Council

Essex

Councillor Ian Westrope, Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council
Councillor Diana Garrod, Sturmer Parish Council
& Bumpstead County Councillor

Haverhill Town Council

Councillor John Burns
Councillor Maureen Byrne
Councillor Paula Fox
Councillor Quillon Fox
Councillor Betty McLatchy
Councillor Ivor McLatchy
Councillor Barry Robbins
Councillor Clive Turner

Suffolk

Councillor John Burns, Suffolk County Council
Councillor Tony Brown, Suffolk County Council
Councillor Margaret Marks, St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Councillor Paul Bishop, Clare Town Council
Clare Ebeling, Clerk, Clare Town Council
Councillor Nathan Loader, Kedington Parish Council

Apologies:

Essex

Councillor David Finch – Essex County Councillor, Hedingham

Haverhill Town Council

Mayor David Roach
Councillor Pat Hanlon

Matthew Hancock MP

In attendance:

Dr Colin M Harris, Cambridge Connect
Heike Sowa, Rail Haverhill
Peter Townsend, Rail Haverhill
Colin Poole, Town Clerk Haverhill Town Council
Vicky Phillips, Assistant Town Clerk, Haverhill Town Council
Alisha Jenkins, Apprentice Office Assistant

3 members of the public

Welcome

The Deputy Mayor of Haverhill, Councillor Paula Fox, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

		Action
HAF /014	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> The above apologies were noted.</p>	
HAF /015	<p><u>Rail Haverhill Presentation</u> Heike Sowa HS gave a presentation to the forum and explained that due to an expanding population, new development and people travelling in the direction of Cambridge, infrastructure needs improvement.</p> <p>HS showed a map outlining the areas using the A1307 to get to Cambridge. This highlighted that Haverhill and Saffron Walden are big contributors to traffic on the A1307; alternative routes through villages were longer and slower. Hold-ups and congestion at Linton were caused by the traffic lights and school.</p> <p>HS explained about the Rail Haverhill group, outlined the group's proposals and explained how to become a member and where they meet.</p> <p>Rail Haverhill were currently collecting signatures to trigger a debate at the three County Councils and aiming to gain support from MP's, the responsible government departments and raise awareness generally.</p> <p>Rail Haverhill would like to see as much of the old railway track reinstated and connected to the wider network, prevention of building on the old track, for example by a guided bus-way, and consideration to building a completely new road with the track aligned.</p> <p>The new train station could be sited West of Haverhill.</p> <p>There is debate as to whether there should be a light railway or heavy freight, but any decision could take 5 years and once a decision is made, up to 10 years before the railway came into use, therefore, a decision should be made asap.</p> <p>The next Rail Haverhill meeting is on 15th May 7.00pm-9.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre.</p> <p>Councillor D Hoddinott The old railway bridges are too low to take HGV's etc and that level crossings are being closed. Peter Wakefield, Rail Haverhill Railway bridges would be built in accordance with future requirements.</p>	

Cambridge Connect

Dr Colin M Harris

Dr Harris gave a presentation to the forum regarding the Cambridge Light Rail and showed figures on how the region was expanding,

Haverhill could have up to 33% growth by 2031. Haverhill is one of the largest towns in England without a rail station, is poorly connected to Cambridge and that the A1307 is classified as 'very high risk of casualty'.

CH explained that the City Deal Solution was based around buses and bus routes. He showed figures to explain that an increase in buses using the station would not be practical or sustainable and did not demonstrate an integrated region.

DH then explained the benefits of a light rail system and used examples from other cities in the UK and in Europe. Some cities were smaller in population than Cambridge, which isn't a problem, light rail can be scaled. Light rail is reliable, frequent and fast, better for the environment and proven. University campuses could be connected and Inner City 'open for business'.

The light rail could be integrated with the heavy rail and CH showed a map of how the rail lines could be connected, inner city and regionally by underground and over-ground.

DH then showed the forum the potential cost of the scheme, explained demand and revenue and affordability.

DH suggested potential investors and that he had had some very positive comments from Mayoral candidates, some keen on financing the railway.

Cllr D Garrod

Universities could be approached for contribution towards the railway

DH

Agreed that this was possible and that the University was keen. He had had a meeting recently with the Strategic Planning Officer at the University and they were open to the concept, although there needs to be more work done before any commitment. The Colleges were also interested.

Cllr J Burns

Was the rationale based on DH's own research or a feasibility study?

DH

A feasibility study does need to be done, this could be funded from City Deal or in a devolution package.

Cllr T Brown

Has had previous experience with working on bore holes in Cambridge, the geology in Cambridge is perfect for an underground system and could be less expensive than originally thought.

Cllr C Turner

There has been importance put on light freight passenger rail, Culina uses the A1307 for carrying containers.

Peter Townsend, Rail Haverhill

The re-installment of heavy freight could be an option and this would be

	<p>considered in the feasibility study. CT concerned that focus is just on railway rather than fixing A1307 HS Making the A1307 a dual carriageway is more expensive than a completely new road. Ideally there could be a new road, with a track running alongside. Cllr J Burns East/West link is vital, there needs to be a quick route to London. DH Takes CT's point that it shouldn't just be an A1307 versus rail. There are many solutions.</p> <p>Councillor N Loader Government needs to be interested. Planners need to balance growth across the region, not just Cambridge. DH Agrees, satellite areas need to be linked with good transport links.</p> <p>Councillor E Bald The railway was a single track, this could prove difficult to change to a double track. Still waiting for results from the ANPR study, this would confirm where traffic is heading – Cambridge or other places.</p>	
HAF /016	<p><u>Other Topics for future meetings</u> Councillor M Marks Suggests the Bypass</p> <p>Councillor D Hoddinott Could invite the Police and Cambridge Highways to the forum to talk about safety of A1307</p> <p>Cllr C Turner Could invite someone from devolution Could ask School Academies to the forum to discuss the future of education, as Academies are struggling with funding.</p>	
HAF /017	<p><u>Open Forum</u> Councillor I Westrope For information, there will be a car rally on 8th July, wants to give advance warning to other parishes that there may be hold ups.</p> <p>Councillor E Bald City Deal are holding workshops and public meetings.</p>	
HAF /018	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Proposed meeting dates: Monday 26th June 2017 Monday 11th September 2017 Monday 13th November 2017 These will be at the Haverhill Arts Centre.</p>	

Closure

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.