

Hastings and Rother Transport Action Group (HARTAG)

Friday 25th May 2018 at 10am at Town Hall, Bexhill

Minutes

Attendees:

Bev Marks – Battle Town Council, Transport Advisor
Andrew Keer – East Sussex County Council
Jon Wheeler – East Sussex County Council
Cllr Jenkins – Rother District Council
Sujeet Sharma – Hastings Borough Council, Planning
Ian Sier – Hastings STF
Tim Hickling – Rother District Council, Planning
Cllr Chowney – Hastings Borough Council
Cllr Hollidge – Rother District Council (Chair)

In attendance:

Alison Spring, Rother District Council

1. Cllr Hollidge introduced the meeting and no apologies were noted.
2. ESCC Update – Jon Wheeler and Andrew Keer
Pipeline of projects to match future funding
ESCC are developing a pipeline of projects to enable bidding for infrastructure to support economic growth as funding opportunities arise. Current projects that the County Council are developing or undertaking studies on include Eastbourne town centre (movement & access); Polegate railway station; A22 and A26 corridors (capacity improvements); also looking at 'smart cities' technology. More projects will be added to the pipeline.

Hastings and Bexhill - Walking and Cycling £9m SELEP project update.
Local growth fund money in place to support this strategy which includes London Road corridor, Bexhill; RTP1 improvements (bus stops); Bexhill cycle routes and a number of pedestrian/cycle schemes in the Hastings area.

England NMU designated fund & Major Road update.
Highways England have undertaken an NMU audit of A259 through Bexhill to identify key improvements required.

Regarding major road network update – consultation ended in March with outcomes expected in Autumn. ESCC and HARTAG provided responses to the consultation. It is expected that funding for improvements will be available early 2020's with Local Authorities able to bid.

Bus measures along A259 Bexhill Road

It was confirmed that works on phase 1 of the scheme (between the petrol station at Glyne Gap and Harley Shute Road) will start early summer. Further phases of the bus measures – Glyne Gap and Harley Shute Road to Filsham Road – will follow.

Highways England Funding Opportunities

Road Investment Strategy has a five year funding cycle, with the next cycle being 2020- 2025. We will know what is available from next summer. Funding will be related to maintenance, major projects and specific areas of concern eg environment, vulnerable road users.

A pipeline of projects is in place but this is something for HARTAG to consider with Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst, Lewes to Polegate and Hurst Green to Flimwell being discussed.

Linking into Transport South East

Discussion held and agreement that the key priority for the group was ensuring engagement now and into the future.

Seachange update (Queensway Gateway and NBAR)

Queensway Gateway – completion delayed due to adverse weather conditions; completion expected this winter. NBAR – completion expected late summer 2018, final phase due to start in June. NBAR will open up North Bexhill Enterprise Park.

High Speed Rail

In November 2017, Secretary of State will pay 50% of design costs for the Ashford West junction which would enable high speed trains to go to/from the high speed rail link through Ashford International Station and onto the Marshlink. The LA's are covering the other 50% of the costs. Network Rail have started design work and development of business case which is due for completion in October 2018. £15 - 25m estimated cost of the Ashford West enhancement.

3. Communications Plan – website update - Alison Spring

Members were shown the newly set up HARTAG website and agreed the format, existing content, and design which includes the following:

- Home
- News
- Publications
- Members area
- Contact details

The publications section will contain documents including HARTAG agendas, minutes and related documents. News items should be sent to maria.kennedy@rother.gov.uk for inclusion in this section. The Members area is an interactive forum and will allow wider HARTAG members to contact and

converse with the group. All will require a username and password to access this area – these can be obtained following the instructions on the website.

It was agreed that the contact address would go directly to Rother. It was reiterated that although the website is hosted by Rother, the URL is @HARTAG – it was agreed that it was important to keep this independent.

It was agreed that a separate page should be added to the website where links to travel organisations/member websites etc could be placed. **Action Alison Spring**

A logo had been designed and all agreed this should be used in the interim although some felt that a final logo should include all forms of transport, including walking – it currently shows different types of wheels. BM agreed to take a look and provide a different design for consideration. **Action Bev Marks**

It was agreed that a press release style communication should be circulated, initially to ex Rother Transport Action Group (RTAG) members, through RDC and then to a wider audience including Hastings groups through HBC. **Action Alison Spring**

4. Rail Action Group – Combined RUGS – Cllr Hollidge

Cllr Hollidge updated regarding the combining of the rail action groups. Agreement that these are well structured, but will require Officer and Member engagement.

5. Any other business

- Southern and SE timetables – changes noted
- Sustrans work – ESCC to pass on congratulations on this positive work from the HARTAG group
- Sujeet Sharma is leaving HBC; Planning Policy team will nominate a replacement officer for HARTAG
- Next agenda – Transport for South East

6. Date for next meeting

Two dates were offered:

15th August 2018, 10am, Muriel Matters House

20th August 2018, 10am, Muriel Matters House

Action: Deniz Musa to send out dates to Members

Close of meeting at the latest 12.00 pm