

CLOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Clopton Village Hall at 7:30pm
On Thursday 8th August 2019.

Present: Cllr Raffell - Chairman Cllr Fryatt Cllr Yallop Cllr Lye Cllr Pitt	In Attendance: Approx 80 Clopton Residents County Cllr Vickery Miss K Bye (Clerk)	Apologies Cllr Gittoes
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<p>CPC069/19 Chairmans Welcome Cllr Raffell welcomed everyone to the extraordinary meeting called to discuss the Northern Route Consultation.</p> <p>Resident turnout was very high with Clopton Village Hall almost full (8 rows approx 10 per row), also attending was County Councillor Robin Vickery.</p>	
<p>CPC070/19 Apologies Apologies received from Councillor Gittoes</p>	
<p>CPC071/19 Declaration of Interests/Dispensation Applications Received A declaration of interest has been received from Councillor Pitt in relation to Newson Farm which appears to be in the path of the outer route of the Northern bypass. If this is the case Newson Farm could in the future be subject to compulsory purchase.</p> <p>Dispensation has been sought in writing by Councillor Pitt to attend all discussions regarding the Northern Route, to participate in any votes and for the dispensation to be valid for four years.</p> <p>The dispensation has been granted prior to the meeting by the Clerk and approved by the Chairman as per our standing orders. Under section 33(2) of the Localism Act 2011 the dispensation has been granted on the grounds that it is in the interests of Clopton residents as a whole that Councillor Pitt be involved in these matters. It has also been noted by Chairman Raffell that all residents, home and land owners of Clopton will be effected in varying degrees by the propose route not just those in its immediate path</p>	
<p>CPC072/19 Public Forum/Open Session County Councillor Vickery report as follows – Cllr Vickery is not personally involved with the consultation process itself and confirmed that any contact from residents that is directed to him will be passed onto the consultation team.</p> <p>This is a project jointly led by councils working together, Suffolk County Council (SCC), Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, East Suffolk Council and Ipswich Borough Council with support from West Suffolk Council.</p>	

The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders board are funding the consultation at this stage.

11 public consultation events have been held in various villages.

Members of the public are encouraged to have their say on the proposal by filling in the online questionnaire

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/INRConsultation/>

All responses must go via the formal process and not to Cllr. Vickery personally.

As request Cllr. Vickery listed various reasons for the Northern route proposal

- The de facto northern route via Westerfield as is at the moment is unsuitable for the current volumes and speed of traffic.
- Housing that is under construction and planned for construction will put more strain on existing roads.
- The success and expansion of Felixstowe port which is the only container port of its size with no motorway link.
- Local Wind Farm developments traffic
- Ipswich Congestion when Orwell crossing is closed
- Sizewell power station traffic
- Air pollution made worse by congestion and idling vehicles.

Letters from residents unable to attend were read out.

All letters were in opposition and the reasons for opposition included -

Damage to countryside

Impact on conservation and wildlife

Increased pollution

Cutting the village in half

Threat of more housing

Benefits not comparable to costs

Negative impact on B1078 and B1079

Talk on Climate emergency by Jane Stevensen

Jane has over 20 years experience advising businesses and institutions on climate change and environmental impact, and has worked all over the world developing sustainability policy and strategy. Jane is a Clopton resident.

In March 2019 a climate change crisis was publicised. This ironically coincided with the government pledging finances for more road building.

The UK is a leading country in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in many areas, but not in motoring. The emissions from cars have remained the same over the past 25 years with no reduction, these emissions are a major contributor to the climate crisis that we are facing.

2018 was the hottest year on record globally

2019 is already proving a highly volatile year with extreme weather events such as fires in Siberia and unprecedented melting of the ice caps.

Globally it has been predicted that there are less than 12 years within which we must reverse emissions. If we do not hit the 2030 emission reduction targets we are on a path to a 6 degree global warming and the world will not be recognisable as it is today.

If these targets are not met in terms of the UK coast, sea level will continue to rise so much that our current coast lines, including Felixstowe and its port will no longer be habitable.

Factors specific to roads –

- Road surfaces themselves are a contributor to increased air temperatures.
- There is a well documented phenomenon called Induced traffic effect. This outlines that new or expanded roads have a short period where traffic thins out due to the new road but then in a short time new roads can push traffic volume up by up to 40%. New roads equate to more traffic not less.
- More car journeys more emissions
- The impact on surrounding countryside is huge, 1 mile of dual carriageway can equate to land take of up to 15 hectares (37 acres) this impacts negatively on wildlife and also farming potential of the land.

Public questions welcomed

Question to Cllr Vickery, are you in favour of the Northern Route

Answer – He is in favour of a Northern Route yes, at present he favours either the middle or inner route but is waiting until he has attended more meetings before he forms a decision. He noted that this is the 3rd attempt at a Northern route and it is important in the consultation to show alternatives, the Outer route is possibly making up the numbers.

Question to Cllr Vickery, if there is money for new roads is there also money to fix potholes in Shop Road

Answer – Councillors budget this year has been allocated elsewhere, it could perhaps be considered in another budget.

Question to Cllr Vickery, what is the reason for the Northern route, is it just to solve issues with the Orwell bridge

Answer – The Ipswich Northern route study does talk about congestion when the bridge is diverted but this is only one element involved.

Resident observation – There are too many problems being bundled into one solution how can one road provide a solution to all the multiple issues.

Problems should be looked at individually with individual solutions put forwards

Cllr Vickery response – There is a push to get funding to try to improve the pinch point at Copdock. However current Suffolk roads are not designed for the levels of traffic we now have.

Resident observation – The B1078 and B1079 are very dangerous roads already. Sizewell traffic will not use the Northern route where the options are placed at present, thus making the B1078 and Bi079 even more dangerous.

Resident speaking – Representing the STOP! Campaign who are opposed to all three routes.

- The STOP! Campaign are focused on attacking the proposal on environmental grounds
- Buses need to be improved
- More sustainable transport options need to be looked into
- Discussions have been made with lorry drivers who use the A12 and A14 they state that the greatest problem they have are at the Copdock interchange.
- It is suggested that money would be better spent into improving the pinch points and rail link for the port of Felixstowe to get freight off the road.
- During a land owners meeting Ardent who are contracted by SCC to talk to landowners when pushed said that this project is about opening up land for development.
- If this is for housing then this needs to be carefully planned
- Consultation questionnaire is not user friendly and seems difficult to put individual opinion across.

Councillor Fryatt – Believes that the proposal is not just about housing, the housing is needed to create funding. 20% of the roads costs would need to be raised by local councils, building levy is needed to raise that 20%.

Resident suggestion – Rather than multiple parishes responding one joint response should be issued, however Cllr. Fryatt felt that more weight would come from multiple responses.

Councillor observation – A speed study has been done on Valley Road and the average speed of rush hour traffic is 30 – 40 mph. This suggests there is no real congestion issue there.

Councillor observation – During a meeting about Sizewell C SCC expressed frustration that EDF have not looked into alternatives for issues that have been raised. It seems that SCC themselves have not looked into alternative solutions other than this one road to the various problems faced. Surely they should investigate alternatives and document them?

Resident observations – Whole scheme is misconceived
SCC have declared a Climate Emergency have they not?(Councillor Vickery confirms this to be the case)

There is a target of zero carbon emission by 2050, how are new roads going to aid that?

Why are SCC following outdated thinking when they could be more innovative?
The data gathered for this consultation is old data.

The transport strategy is woefully out of date. The scheme needs a complete rethink.

Resident Observation

Regarding the housing, where will these people work?

The levy from the housing will be needed to pay for services and infrastructure for the new houses, doctors, schools, hospitals.

Resident Question to Cllr Vickery

I have written to you Cllr Vickery and received no response. I would like to know what SCC are going to do for residents who are suffering housing blight as a direct result to this consultation. What can be done for people who want to sell their houses and now cannot?

Cllr Vickery is going to look into responding to this resident.

Resident observation – As farmers of a large area of land the movement of farm machinery is a real issue. This has been countered by the creation of a farm track network to keep machines off the roads. The outer route will pass right through the farm making the movement of machinery extremely difficult and could result in machinery having to go all the way to Woodbridge to turn round and come back on the other side of the road.

Councillor observation – The Consultation questionnaire is difficult to fill out online and is better seen in hardcopy first. The Clerk distributed what hard copies she had. There is a help section on the STOP! website that give advice on how to use the online questionnaire,

https://stopipswichnorthernbypass.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Consultation_Guidance_July19.pdf

Resident question – Hasn't East Suffolk Council already fulfilled its land supply for building quote.

Cllr Fryatt response – Yes, East Suffolk Council has enough land supply for 10700 houses by 2037 this land supply is not reliant on the Northern Route. Ipswich Borough Council do not have enough land supply over the next 5 year however surrounding areas can make up that requirement.

Votes raised to the public

Clopton residents are in favour of CPC supporting the STOP! Campaign

All residents present were opposed to the outer route

All residents present were opposed to the middle route

Roughly 95% of residents present were opposed to the inner route. Those few who were not opposed to the inner route voiced that if there had to be a road the inner route makes most sense.

Clopton therefore by majority is opposed to the Northern Route as a whole.

Public session concluded

<p>CPC073/19 Closed session to formulate CPC response to SCC</p> <p>It was decided that the Chairman and Clerk would formulate the response outside of this meeting.</p> <p>Response to be sent to Councillor Matthew Hicks – Leader of Suffolk County Council Councillor John Ward – Leader of Babergh District Council Councillor Suzie Morley – Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council Councillor Steve Gallant – Leader of East Suffolk Council Councillor David Ellesmere – Leader of Ipswich Borough Council Councillor John Griffiths MBE – Leader of West Suffolk Council The Northern Route Consultation Team STOP! Campaign group</p> <p>The response will include issues that are relevant to planning applications as these are the issues that will be considered.</p> <p>Those issues are: Consultation itself not being a true consultation Environmental Issues Negative impact on tourism Negative impact on agriculture Negative impact on Clopton and its road network Planning blight Not on the local plan</p> <p>Clopton Parish Council would like to support the STOP! Campaign in name and also with a small donation of £50 at this time. However CPC are open to discuss more funding at a later date for example if STOP! take on a judicial review of the consultation process. It has been noted that the donation will come from the section 137 budget.</p> <p>Cllr. Pitt has agreed to act as central point of contact with STOP!</p> <p>Cllr. Yallop has offered to create in his workshop STOP! banners to be displayed.</p>	
<p>CPC074/19 Dates of future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 19th Sept 2019, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Parish Council Meeting. • Thursday 21st Nov 2019, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Parish Council Meeting. • Thursday 16th Jan 2020, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Parish Council Meeting. • Thursday 19th Mar 2020, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Parish Council Meeting. 	
<p><i>Meeting closed at 9:50pm</i></p>	
<p>Chairman:</p> <p>Date:</p>	