# Meeting

Meeting:	Land West of Stoney Stanton, Community Liaison Group Meeting 2		
Venue:	Sapcote Scout Centre	Date:	Wednesday 10th August, 7pm
Community Attendees:	Cat Bass, Elmesthorpe Stands Together (CB - EST)		
	Jane Carroll, Stoney Stanton Action Group (JC - SSAG)		
	John May, Sapcote resident (JM)		
	Becky Roper, Elmesthorpe Stands Together (BR - EST)		
	Sharon Scott, Sapcote resident (SS)		
	Steve Walls, Stoney Stanton resident (SW)		
	Father Andrew Hall, Vicar – Burbage and Aston Flamville (AH)		
Parish Representatives:	Ed Bryan, Aston Flamville (EB)	)	
	Luke Cousin, Stoney Stanton (LC)		
	Vic Howell, Sapcote (VH)		
	Shirley Iliffe, Burbage (SI)		
	Sam Walsh, Croft (SW)		
	Hannah Pickles, Croft (HP)		
Project Team Attendees:	David Blackadder-Weinstein,	Turley (DBW)	
	Tom Collins, Mather Jamie (To	C)	
	Keith Fenwick, Pegasus (KF)		
	Alice Jones, Turley (AJ)		
	Andrew Winnington, LCC (AW)		
	Beth Entwistle, Barwood Land (BE)		

## Agenda

- Welcome and updates
- Chair and Vice Chair introductions



- Design progress
- New settlement identity development
- Highways infrastructure needs
- Public transport
- CLG site walkaround
- CLG Meeting 3: topic of discussion
- AOB

#### Introduction

- 1. DBW provided an introduction to the meeting and invited everyone to reintroduce themselves.
- 2. DBW stated that the results of the survey from the previous meeting, slide deck and Terms of Reference had been uploaded to the project website.
- 3. It was agreed that the agenda for future meetings would be posted on the project website in advance.

## **Chair and Vice Chair introductions**

- 4. SS and BR were invited to introduce themselves as the CLG's newly elected Chair and Vice Chair.
- 5. SS thanked CLG members for electing her as chair.
- 6. BR stated that her ambition for the group was to ensure that everyone was represented and that their opinions were heard.

## **Design progress**

7. Due to a public inquiry, Dominic Scott was unable to attend the meeting to provide a design update. DBW mentioned that he would be present at the upcoming site visit later in August 2022 and that he would then give a fuller update at the next CLG meeting in October.

## New settlement identity development

- 8. DBW stated that the CLG's input in developing a new settlement identity will be invaluable.
- 9. It was noted that local and regional history would be referenced, and that cultural appropriation should be avoided when conducting this research. It was suggested



that any local history and community groups should be consulted as part of this process.

- 10. BR asked if anyone from the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan (FVNP) would be present for these discussions.
- 11. DBW stated that the project team would be open to suggestions from anyone involved in the FVNP process.
- 12. VH mentioned that parish council representatives who are also CLG members were involved in this process.

## Highways infrastructure need

- 13. DBW stated that the main topic of discussion for this meeting was highways infrastructure. Members were divided into smaller groups, and each table was given two maps to annotate and highlight key points of highways interest, such as congestion pinch points, areas of safety concern, and any suggested interventions that could help alleviate these issues.
- 14. A copy of the annotated maps can be viewed in **Appendix 1.**

The following section summarises key comments and questions raised by theme.

## **Motorways**

- It was stated that traffic on the M69 has increased significantly in recent years.
- Queues at M69 Junction 1 were highlighted, and it was suggested that improvements to this junction be prioritised. It was suggested that a new motorway junction be built closer to Stoney Stanton.
- Members stated that opening the slip roads on the M69 would lead to more traffic on the M69.
- It was stated that Junction 21 of the M1 should be addressed because it is already congested, and it was queried whether access north of Stoney Stanton would be considered.
- One member queried whether improvements to Junction 21 of the M1 would be considered if the HNRFI did not proceed.

#### **A5**

- Frequent collisions with the A5 Bridge close to Burbage were highlighted.
- The need to improve this route is being ignored by current HNRFI plans.



## **HNRFI**

- It was suggested that the new road proposed by the HNRFI proposals would not help to alleviate traffic and would instead lead to HGV drivers taking the shortest routes through the villages.
- It was stated that the HNRFI infrastructure plans would only work if the M6 could be accessed.
- It was questioned whether the consortium would make infrastructure improvements if the HNRFI did not proceed.
- It was noted that the consortium did not have compulsory purchase powers and could only directly provide infrastructure improvements on land under consortium control.
- One member enquired whether the consortium would open the M69 slip roads if the HNRFI did not proceed.
- It was stated that transportation modelling would be conducted to account for both scenarios, with and without the HNRFI proceeding.
- It was noted that the HNRFI application is still expected to be submitted by the end of 2022. With this knowledge, the consortium will be able to conduct better-informed modelling.

## **Calor Gas Lorries**

- The impact of Calor gas lorries on traffic in Stoney Stanton was noted.
- It was questioned whether a junction north of the railway line in Stoney Stanton could be included to access the M69 and prevent Calor gas lorries from going through Stoney Stanton village centre and Sapcote. It was mentioned that Calor had previously offered to include a motorway junction there.
- LC suggested a bypass/relief road from the Calor Gas site north of Stoney Stanton to the M69 via the site of the new settlement.
- Other members suggested a bypass south of Stoney Stanton to remove HGV vehicles from village centres.
- It was noted that the Calor lorries were currently causing issues on the Hinckley Road mini roundabout, which was cited as a 'problem' roundabout.
- It was noted that Calor lorries were not allowed to operate through the village during peak school hours but did so late into the evening which causes a particular issue on Sapcote Road where there are cars parked up in front of residential properties on both sides of the road, effectively reducing it to one lane.



## **Consortium proposals**

- Members enquired whether it was too early in the process to ask about the consortiums infrastructure plans.
- TC stated that the consortium was still in the early stages of the process and that highway modelling would be undertaken and agreed upon with the Highways Authority to determine what future mitigation is required.
- It was questioned whether infrastructure would be built alongside new housing. TC stated that there were restrictions on how much housing could be built prior to infrastructure such as schools and other services being provided, and that this would be part of the phasing work later in the process.

## **Stoney Cove**

- The potential problems for Stoney Cove were highlighted if car parking was removed in the future to accommodate a link road. Its popularity, particularly on weekends, was highlighted.
- It was suggested that a new car park could be provided for Stoney Cove in an alternative location.

## Site infrastructure

- The importance of providing connectivity through the site was emphasised. The inclusion of cycle ways throughout the site was mentioned.
- TC noted the consortiums ambition to provide a 15-minute neighbourhood whereby residents could access all the facilities and infrastructure they require for daily life within a 15 minute walk of their home, thus reducing the need to use a car at all.

## **Railway station**

- One member enquired whether the consortium had considered providing a railway station
- BE stated that the consortium could facilitate a station but would not deliver it themselves.
- DBW noted the feasibility of any new station, regardless of who delivers it, would be dependent on the HNRFI, Midlands Connect's plans for increased speed and frequency on the Birmingham-Leicester line, and the existing level crossing at Narborough, all of which have a significant impact on use of the railway line.
- It was noted that if residents of the new settlements used the current railway stations, this would result in more cars on the roads. It was agreed that the principle of a new station was good and would take cars off the road.



## Impact on villages

- It was noted that there are a variety of reasons for traffic pinch points being created in villages, including school pick up and drop off, availability of parking, mini roundabouts, and buildings' proximity to the roadside.
- It was suggested that when considering future improvements, existing day-to-day issues such as traffic or road closures should be considered first in order to understand the local context and impact of additional traffic rather than focusing on hypothetical junctions in the first instance.
- The narrow roads in villages such as Elmesthorpe, Stoney Stanton, and Sapcote were cited as unsuitable for large vehicles and traffic volumes, as were the frequent accidents that occurred as a result.
- Future mitigation suggestions included new relief road(s), HGV weight limits, width restrictions, speed bumps, and lowering speed limits although not all CLG members agreed on the value or benefits of all of these potential interventions.
- The agricultural context of the local area was highlighted, as well as the regular presence of large and slow agricultural vehicles on narrow roads and associated accidents.
- Queues on the Coventry Road from the B581 are observed, as was the problematic junction to access Stoney Stanton from this road.
- It was stated that if the slip roads are opened, traffic in the villages will likely increase.
- Rat running, especially during times when there are problems on the M69 were noted.
- BR highlighted safety on the B581 as an issue with regular air ambulance incidents and fatalities cited.

## **Public transport**

- 15. DBW asked all members to consider whether improvements to public transportation were important. It was noted that the consortium would not deliver a new train station, but that this would not jeopardise future delivery of one.
- 16. It was stated that bus routes are virtually non-existent in Stoney Stanton and Sapcote, and that the X55 was primarily used by school children.
- 17. It was noted that if there are problems on the motorway, buses use the villages as alternate routes.
- 18. A member who lives in Croft stated that the bus service is poor and that additional services would be beneficial to the village.



- 19. It was suggested that the bendy buses currently operating in Hinckley and Burbage would be inappropriate due to the narrowness of village roads.
- 20. It was mentioned that a recent bus survey in Leicestershire had concluded that there is often a demand for more bus services, but that they are currently underutilised.
- 21. BR stated that many existing residents do not want additional bus services and that buses would be unable to access the roads due to the narrowness of the roads.
- 22. VH stated that bus timing is an issue, and that elderly residents are more likely to be impacted by irregular services.
- 23. The future implementation of a parking levy in Leicester City was mentioned, as well as the lack of free parking.
- 24. It was questioned how the consortium would be able to influence bus services.

## **CLG** site walk

- 25. DBW mentioned that the consortium was planning to hold a site walk later in August and that a Doodle poll would be sent out to determine CLG member availability and preference.
- 26. The CLG was asked if anyone had any concerns about the length of the walk or mobility issues.
- 27. It was noted that the walk would last approximately one hour.

## **CLG Meeting 3 - Topic**

- 28. DBW invited members to suggest a topic for discussion at the next meeting.
- 29. It was suggested that highways be revisited in future meetings with the project team's transport consultant present.
- 30. Infrastructure was suggested as the next topic of focus, with an emphasis on village services and facilities.
- 31. The environment and sustainability were also proposed as future discussion topics.

## 32. Next Steps

- 33. Site walk around to be arranged and CLG member availability sought.
- 34. Agenda to be posted to the project website in advance of future meetings.
- 35. Minutes to be circulated to CLG members before being posted on the project website.



## Contact

Alice Jones/David Blackadder-Weinstein <a href="mailto:contact@landwestofstoneystanton.co.uk">contact@landwestofstoneystanton.co.uk</a>



## Meeting

**Appendix 1:** Annotated maps

























