

New Tyne Crossing

Strategic Partnering Forum Meeting Minutes

Jarrow Town Hall, Monday 27th April 2009, 2.00pm



Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome:</p> <p>Felicity Amer TWITA Nicola Ashworth Parsons Brinkerhoff Pauline Bittlestone JNMP John Bourn Tyne & Wear Planning Aileen Brewis STMBC Nicolas Caille BYTP John Edwards STMBC Paul Fenwick TWITA Tamsin Greulich TT2 Cllr Tom Hanson STMBC Peter Hedley TT2 Claire Heron NTMBC John Hogger Environment Agency James Hudson TT2 Trevor Jackson TT2 Patrick Melia STMBC John Miller TWITA Paul Moore TT2 Mike Page Tyne & Wear Freight Partnership Jackie Palmer NTMBC Peter Spark Resident Willington Quay Stuart Smith TT2 Linda Whitworth A Team/EHCC Ken Tyrrell Jarrow Neighbourhood Management Board Lynn Uren East Howdon Community Centre</p> <p>Observers:</p> <p>Peter Harwood ACAS (UK Chief Conciliator) Malcolm Boswell ACAS (Assistant Director)</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Cllr Jim Allan NTMBC Ian King Northumbria Police Chris Rowell Jarrow NMP Manager Richard Simpson TWITA</p> <p>■ TT2 informed attendees that representatives from ACAS were in attendance to observe the meeting. Local employment processes on the New Tyne Crossing project have been identified as an example of good practice.</p>	
2. Minutes of last meeting (12/01/2009) & matters arising.	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Minutes of last meeting (12/01/2009) agreed by all as a fair record of discussions. 	
<p>3. Construction update</p> <p>BYTP gave an update on tunnel construction activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ North <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tyne View Terrace has been realigned using a temporary bridge onto its original route. ■ Excavation in the cut and cover section is progressing. ■ Transition structures are being excavated. ■ Over the last two weekends traffic management operations have taken place on the A19 due the gas mains supply realignment. ■ River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Construction of the River Caissons is ongoing. Two segments of the four are now complete. ■ South <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Transition structure excavations are taking place. Diaphragm Wall construction continues. ■ The next stage on Chaytor Street is to realign the road on a temporary bridge. ■ High Street will reopen mid May. ■ Work on the foundations of bridges P4 and P6 continue. ■ The wall of the existing tunnel at the south junction has been demolished to make space for the new tunnel. ■ Sheet piling for the loop retaining wall has been completed at Epinay Walk. ■ Resident representative queried project timescale schedule. BYTP explained that the proposed completion date is on target. ■ Residents of East Howdon had no impact from the previous weekends diversions on the A19 (Gas main diversion). Resident stated that leaflets had not been distributed in the Willington Quay area prior to the activity. TT2 replied that this was supposed to have been done and apologised that it had not happened. 	
<p>4. Silverlink update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ TT2 reported slow progress on the issue of Silverlink. TT2 have had two meetings with the Secretary of State, who has acknowledged 	



<p>Silverlink is a problem, but believes it to be a local issue that needs a local solution. A19 improvements may be seen as a softer option than the A1, and drivers may use this while A1 roadworks are undertaken. The next step in the process for Silverlink is to have a meeting with Nick Brown to discuss how to bring things forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Resident requested clarity on the recent newspaper articles regarding proposals to increase tunnel tolls to pay for Silverlink improvements. TT2 replied that while the Mayor of North Tyneside was speaking about several possible solutions the journalist chose to focus on the option to increase tolls, rather than the point of trying to establish how the work should be funded. TWITA reinforced that by stating that there were no plans to increase tolls for the A19. TT2 added that it would be unfair for tunnel traffic solely to fund the work when many Silverlink users do not use the tunnel. ■ STMBC stated that they support the Silverlink initiatives. STMBC queried if 'Testo's' roundabout would be undermined by a focus on Silverlink? TT2 replied that they did not know at this stage, but had a meeting planned with the Highways Agency and would raise the point. 	<p>TT2 to feedback information from Highways Agency meeting</p>
<p>5. North Local Partnering Forum update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NTMBC have established a Traffic Working Group of council officers and professional traffic advisors to investigate solutions to rat running and other issues. They will consult with residents when appropriate. TT2 asked to be involved when necessary. ■ A resident stated that HGVs still rat run through East Howdon, although it does not seem to be drivers working on NTX construction. NMTBC stated that they have been working on this for some time and have gone back to non-construction traffic to reassert traffic control information. On specific occasions O'Brien's, who are often seen using local roads, have been engaged in legitimate work in the area, and therefore access is necessary. NTMBC will monitor the situation and asked for evidence to identify specific drivers. ■ Resident noted that Willington Quay has weight restrictions. HGVs should use appropriate roads to get to Howdon, not Willington Quay or East Howdon. It was suggested that when NTX contracts are ended they will revert to rat running. It is appreciated that if the roads are running correctly this will reduced, but the Silverlink problem means that they are not running correctly. ■ TT2 had introduced their EMAS policy at the local forums and asked for feedback from forum members. EMAS (Eco Management and Audit Scheme) is the business recognition for environmental management. ■ TT2 have produced an Assessment of Environmental Impact, a list of what the company has done for environmental issues within their 	



<p>area. The company now need to decide on objectives and targets, and want the local community, through the local forums, to partner during identification of these.</p>															
<p>6. South Local Partnering Forum update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ STMBC stated that the recent walk around by Stephen Hepburn MP was successful. A resident complaint had been sent to the MP and both STMBC and TT2 had responded. The MP was pleased with the visit and the responses given and a large range of issues were raised and all were answered satisfactorily. TT2 added that the complaint was not aimed directly at the tunnel, and they had been told that this was the first complaint received by the MP relating to the project. ■ STMBC conducted a positive meeting with the Highways Agency and Emergency Services concerning unplanned incidents. ■ STMBC look forward to working on the landscaping master plan. ■ A project and employment update was requested from Jarrow CAF. STMBC would like TT2 to report to the next meeting. 	<p>STMBC to notify TT2 of Jarrow CAF arrangements.</p>														
<p>7. Employment Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ TT2 reported that much has happened since the last Strategic Forum. ■ TT2 met with Tier1 contractors and reminded them of their contract clauses specifically about local employment. Reporting from contractors has been very difficult and an updated reporting system was introduced. Contractors will now supply employment information by the fifth of each month, starting 5th April. ■ Latest figures based on 5th April show 370 workers on the construction project. This excludes employees of tier 2 contractors, TT2 staff and off site workers. TT2 reported figures by local Authority as follows: <table data-bbox="395 1496 798 1727" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>North Tyneside</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newcastle upon Tyne</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Tyneside</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunderland</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Durham</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gateshead</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northumberland</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </table> ■ TT2 have written a large report in conjunction with the local employment development team at STMBC regarding local employment and procurement. This was time consuming but provides a very useful overview of work undertaken and progress to date. It was asked whether this report was only applicable to the south. TT2 replied that it was based on information from the south but could be 	North Tyneside	93	Newcastle upon Tyne	90	South Tyneside	36	Sunderland	36	Durham	25	Gateshead	23	Northumberland	21	
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adapted.

- TT2 held a Cross River employment workshop. This was well received. Further comments listed below.
- TT2's CV database now has 1004 applications. The data from this can be split by ward, and tells us that most applications are from the most impacted areas.
- Government benchmark figures based on the Olympics construction activities showed 28% employees from the 5 boroughs closest to the site. STMBC supply chain figures from a similar project showed only one firm from the north east. Against these benchmarks it is clear that there are some positive achievements within the New Tyne Crossing project.

Other Employment Activity

- TT2 are generating a mini supplier's database.
- TT2 have taken on an apprentice on from Jarrow.
- TT2 have been in contact with local Job centres about local employment.
- TT2 are in discussions with TEDCO over the legacy left on both north and south following the tunnel completion.
- NTMBC have submitted an offer concerning training opportunities, which NTMBC will fund.

Residents' comments on the employment workshop

- North residents reported that the workshop was well received by attendees. There was, however, an impression that some representatives from the South were concerned only with local issues, rather than considering the 'bigger picture'.
- Workshop attendees had been asked to split into groups for discussion, ensuring that members who regularly worked together were not in the same group. One group in particular did not do this and some participants felt this did not ensure a range of views were heard.
- Some residents expressed their displeasure with opinions that had been raised during the workshop; that TT2 had not communicated effectively with regards to employment issues. They stated that in their opinion the Communications and Community Partnering team had given them all the details they required with regular updates, and they were very pleased with their work and the relationships which have been established.
- STMBC commented that the workshop format for the Cross River



<p>meeting had been 'brave' by TT2 and will be good for future topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It was noted that there is a perception in the area that the project will create many jobs and solve unemployment issues in North and South Tyneside, this may be based on numbers employed during construction of the existing Tyne tunnel, and it was recognised that this idea was unrealistic. ■ NTMBC stated that we need to concentrate on the actual numbers within the NTX Environmental Statement. There is a need to manage public expectations, insisting forum members should double their efforts to feedback factual information to their communities. ■ North resident pointed out that recent publicity on the North Bank of the Tyne Regeneration had stated a possible 10,000 new jobs. It would be reasonable to suggest that some of those jobs will be filled from the south. 	
<p>8. Site Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ TT2 reported that there were no security issues. 	
<p>9. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum member asked whether taxi drivers could still use the bus access road from Tyne View Terrace. TT2 replied that taxis could use this road, but must be liveried and easily identifiable as taxis to avoid ordinary road users using the lane. An examiner would notice them waiting and radio for the barrier to be lifted. 	
<p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Next meeting to be held on July 13th 2009, 2pm at TT2 offices. 	