

Notes of a meeting regarding the possible A45/46 Link

1. Present

Walter Bailey - Transport & Infrastructure Commissioning Manager SMBC	Richard Lloyd – Parish Councillor
Ken Allsopp – Borough Councillor	Dinah Edwards – Parish Councillor
David Bell – Borough Councillor	Kay Howles Parish Councillor
Tony Diccio – Borough Councillor	Andrew Burrow – Parish Councillor
	Don Hitchcock – Parish Councillor

2. Broad points covered

- 2.1. Walter Bailey reports to Parry Wardle and is responsible for new transport infrastructure such as new roads
- 2.2. The first that SMBC were aware of the proposed A45/46 link was towards the end of 2015 when Warwickshire and Coventry came up with the idea. At that stage it was simply “line on a map” without any details, justification, benefits or costing.
- 2.3. The idea was not disclosed by SMBC because the concept was not defined other than as a line on a map and its publicity could cause property blight for an idea that may never materialise.
- 2.4. Cabinet were briefed in 2017 because the proposed link was shown in the Coventry plan and SMBC were statutory consultees in that plan. The SMBC cabinet agreed that Officers should maintain a watching brief and seek to obtain more details
- 2.5. To this date no more details have been provided for the “Solihull/Berkswell” section within Solihull Borough
- 2.6. The scheme/idea is in three stand-alone parts
 - 2.6.1. **Phase 1** – This is the junction at Stoneleigh on the A46 to improve that junction taking advantage of funds available for improvement for an HS2 construction site. That has funds and is in the final stages of obtaining permissions
 - 2.6.2. **Phase 2**- This is a link road from the improved junction and the university and proposed new housing under the Coventry Local plan. This has funding for a study only. It must stand alone economically with no benefits being assumed for an onward link via Solihull Borough. There are funds available from government to provide transport links to new housing and the study would prepare an economic justification to provide funds for construction.
 - 2.6.3. **Phase 3** – This is a possible link from the university through Solihull Borough to connect up the A45 and A46 to overcome congestion in Coventry. This has no funding even for a study. There were 2 lines on a map in 2015 but some other options have been looked at since but there has been no new information since the cabinet were briefed.
- 2.7. Phase 1 should take 2 to 3 years to complete in Walter’s view
- 2.8. Phase 2 would probably start in 2023 if it could be justified. There was an interrelationship with work on HS2 in terms of access to land (there is no interest by HS2 in this link for their project as far as Walter is aware)
- 2.9. Phase 3 is very unlikely to be a strategically important road but only a local relief road. As such it would not be a Department of Transport/Highways England project. If it was only a

local project it would require the specific approval of SMBC and could not take place without that.

- 2.10.** Parish and Borough Councillors said that they could see no benefit in an A45/46 road through Berkswell parish for local residents and probably no benefit for the Borough as a whole. One could envisage that such a link running between Balsall Common and Knowle might provide a bypass benefit to both Knowle and Balsall Common and provide direct access to the Jaguar-Land rover plant. It could also by pass Kenilworth to the west depending on the route. No benefit that would outweigh the obvious disadvantages could be seen for a dual carriageway next to or through Balsall Common for Solihull or for Balsall Common.
- 2.11.** Parish and Borough Councillors stated than rather simply reacting to Coventry/Warwickshire proposals SMBC should be looking at a wider view to provide SMBC ideas for road improvement that would benefit the wider Solihull Borough as well as Coventry/Warwick.
- 2.12.** Finally, all 3 Borough Councillors voiced their strong opposition to any A45/46 link past Balsall Common.