

Notes of the meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Highways, Tuesday 11th July 2017
in Dining Room A of the House of Commons

Present:

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| Christopher Chope MP | Chairman |
| Viscount Simon | Vice Chairman |
| Sir Greg Knight MP | |
| Dr Julian Lewis MP | |
| Andrew Bridgen MP | |

Jonathan Pearson (IHE)
Stephen Webb (IHE)
Malcolm Simms (MPA/AIA)
Chris Southwell (Eurobitume UK/AIA)
Samantha Stagg (James Reed PR/AIA)
Simon van der Byl (Secretary to the Group)

1. Introduction. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and, conscious of the need for some Members present to leave early for an emergency debate, asked Malcolm Simms to make his presentation. This is attached as an appendix to these notes.
2. Discussion. The Chairman opened the discussion with a question to the Group on whether those present thought there would be merit in the APPG formally responding to the forthcoming DfT consultation on its Transport Investment Strategy in relation to creating a "Major Roads Network". This was agreed wholeheartedly and a draft will be provided by the industry representatives.

Other topics raised and discussed included:

- The need for planning permissions for the proposed addition of a range of new by-passes, with the concomitant delays and expense likely to be incurred.
- Smart motorways and the use of hard shoulders for extra lanes in peak periods.
- Lower speed limits in sensitive urban areas (around schools, for example).
- Where the purported VED money for extra spending on local roads would come from, if vehicles became more "electric" or hybrid, with the associated reduction (to zero in some cases) of Excise Duty!
- The issue of potholes (as reported in the ALARM survey, for example) and whether "Jo Public" should be more active in reporting them.
- The possible use of pavements instead of roadways for utilities, thus reducing the disruption of traffic and inadequate reinstatement.
- The effects of BREXIT on lorry traffic and associated regulation (vehicle weight limits, for example).

Members agreed to consider submitting industry proposals for questions to the House.

3. Date of next meeting. The next planned meeting is on Tuesday 21st November 2017 at 1230 for 1300 in Dining Room A. The Chairman committed to inviting the Transport Minister, Rt. Hon. John Hayes MP.

Simon van der Byl
11 July 2017