

## Hartford Conservation Group

Hartford Conservation Group held an open meeting with speakers Chris Bayliss and Jon Lewell of Highways England who gave an illustrated talk on the upgrade of the 21 mile stretch of the A14 with emphasis on the roads around Huntingdon. This was a follow up to our meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The £1.5 billion upgrade is made up of 6 sections, section 6 being the Huntingdon Town Centre link roads and removal of the viaduct where the A14 crosses the East Coast Main Line Railway. The existing section of the A14 will be handed over to Cambridge County Council and become a local road and will become the A1307.

A video was shown explaining the innovative technique that will be used to install two new 1,000 tonne bridge decks at the new Bar Hill Junction over just one weekend (14-17 September), the bridge sections being manufactured nearby and 'wheeled' to the four abutments already in place.

The removal (not demolition) of the viaduct will be carried out in sections and will take place over the 2019 Christmas period. Preparation work will be carried out during the day and removal of the viaduct sections will be carried out during the night. During removal there will be road and rail closures. The creation of link roads to and from the current A14, the redesigning of Huntingdon Railway Station approach will create a new transport hub with convenient bus stops. A video explaining the new link roads - the Pathfinder Link, Mill Common Link and Huntingdon Station/Brampton was shown. Necessary diversions to utilities around Huntingdon will take place early next year. An archaeological dig will take place on Mill Common and excavations are expected to go to a depth of over two metres.

By the time the upgrade is complete 73 new or modified bridges will be in place.

Chris and Jon then took questions from the floor and to finish we took a visual tour of the future layout of Huntingdon.

For more information and videos visit [www.highwaysengland.co.uk](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk)

For more information about Hartford Conservation Group visit [www.hartfordconservation.org.uk](http://www.hartfordconservation.org.uk)