CONSTRUCTION work on the King’s Dyke level crossing scheme has started five months early. The contractor, Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK, commenced groundworks and the occasion was marked with a ‘first spade in the ground’ event, with those who have campaigned and supported the scheme over the last 20 years in attendance. Construction was originally scheduled to begin by the end of this year. Jones Bros is on site full time and will be working alongside Cambridgeshire County Council to ensure local residents and businesses are kept informed throughout the duration of the project and any disruption is kept to a minimum. Cambridgeshire County Council leader, Cllr Steve Count, said: “I am thrilled that we are starting work on this vitally important project for the area and five months earlier than planned is a great achievement. “This progress has been made despite the recent challenges caused by COVID-19 and while it remains a live issue, I’m glad some of us could get together, socially distanced, to celebrate.”

Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, James Palmer, said: “Removing delays at the King’s Dyke crossing will unlock opportunity for the north of the county and bring investment, jobs and homes.” Cllr Chris Boden, local member for Whittlesey North and leader of Fenland District Council, said: “We have been campaigning for this scheme for more than 20 years and local residents and businesses will soon be able to reap the benefits of this much-needed project.”

Jones Bros managing director John Dielhof said: “The start of this project is an exciting milestone, particularly for the local residents and commuters who will benefit most when the development is completed. “We look forward to delivering the King’s Dyke transport scheme on schedule and on budget.”

From left: Cllr David Connor, local county council member; Mayor James Palmer for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; local MP Steve Barclay; Jones Bros managing director John Dielhof; Cllr Steve Count, leader of Cambridgeshire County Council and Cllr Chris Boden, leader of Fenland District Council and local county council member.

‘Removing delays at King’s Dyke crossing will bring investment, jobs and homes’

The £32m King’s Dyke level crossing scheme is being delivered by Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council. At present, the King’s Dyke at-grade level crossing is located on the A605 between Whittlesey and Peterborough and crosses the railway line between Ely and Peterborough. It has long been a local issue owing to downtime of the barriers which causes significant delays to traffic travelling between Whittlesey and Peterborough. Work will include constructing a new road and bridge over the Ely to Peterborough railway line. The level crossing will subsequently be removed as part of the programme. As with all the family firm’s projects, it will be aiming to boost the local economy during construction, with opportunities for local suppliers as well as recruitment of apprentices and experienced operators. Established in the 1950s, Jones Bros’ leadership team consists of members of the second and third generations of the founding family. It employs close to 500 people. The company is currently working on contracts in various sectors including highways, flood and marine defence, waste management and renewable energy around the UK. The company runs an award-winning apprenticeship scheme, which has produced more than 40 per cent of its current workforce, with many of its senior managers having started out as apprentices or in a trainee role.
Rhydian’s career rise to construction manager

FROM summer placement to construction manager on the £32m King’s Dyke project, Rhydian Hafal is a shining example of hard work and dedication paying off.

The 32-year-old used his university holidays while studying civil engineering to gain valuable work experience with Jones Bros through their paid summer placement scheme. After accepting a permanent role with the company in 2011, Rhydian’s career has gone from strength to strength.

He has progressed up the career ladder holding positions including site engineer, site agent and project manager while handling additional responsibilities on a variety of schemes including highways and wind farms.

He is now looking forward to his next challenge – managing the day-to-day contract activities on the Cambridgeshire transport development.

“It’s an exciting project and one that the whole team is keen to deliver,” he said.

One of the main aspects of my role is to plan on-site activities and liaise closely with the works manager and site agents to ensure we stay on schedule.

“I’m also tasked with the commercial element and forecasting to help keep the scheme within budget.”

Rhydian has previously project managed a 17-turbine wind farm in mid Wales and helped deliver a multi-million pound highways project in Buckinghamshire, which included constructing a four and half kilometre road along a former railway track.

He was shortlisted for trainee engineer of the year at the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) Wales awards in 2013, and completed his master’s degree in civil and environmental engineering in 2010.

SITE UPDATE: Progress is good on earthworks

INITIAL earthworks are progressing well on the King’s Dyke project and will continue through the summer. Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK is importing materials to construct the embankment on which the new road will be built.

The civil engineering company will also install vertical drains beneath the embankment to help accelerate ground conditions in the area, starting this element of the construction site operating procedures.

Construction manager Rhydian Hafal explained: “Due to ground conditions in the area, starting this element of the works has been key to keeping the project on schedule.

“We will also shortly start work on the main site compound, which is located to the east of the railway, opposite the Fortherra King’s Dyke Works.

“In October, our attention will turn to the structures for the underpass and bridge, with foundations scheduled to begin in the autumn.”

‘It’s an exciting project and one that the whole team is keen to deliver...’

Rhydian Hafal

Community opportunities

JONES Bros will aim to boost the local economy with opportunities for local suppliers as well as recruitment of apprentices and experienced operators.

In the past it has held careers in construction events to encourage the younger generation into the industry as well as visiting schools to bring them the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) bridge challenge.

Through hosting ‘meet the buyer’ events, local suppliers and contractors also have the opportunity to bid for and secure contracts.

Jones Bros also creatively helps local organisations.

Previously, it provided an arts centre with leftover materials from construction sites for a schools’ project.

The company is looking forward to engaging with the community in and around the King’s Dyke project.

Any suppliers keen to find out more can email kingdyke@jones-bros.com

Coronavirus steps

HEALTH and safety are two of the main priorities for Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK.

To protect its staff and local residents from Coronavirus, it has put measures in place such as risk assessments and social distancing as well as doubled the size of suitable hygiene and welfare facilities on site.

Staggered breaks will also be introduced as the number of people on site increases.

Full time cleaners will be employed at both compounds, which will also be subject to a one-way system.

Considerate Constructor

THE King’s Dyke level crossing project is in the process of being signed up to the Considerate Constructors’ Scheme, a national initiative recognising construction sites that respect the public, protect the environment and keep workers safe.

SAFETY MESSAGE: Construction sites are not a playground. Please do not trespass on the King’s Dyke level crossing site.

Recruiting now for key project roles

JONES Bros Civil Engineering UK is recruiting for permanent key roles as work starts on site at the King’s Dyke project.

It is seeking applications from local people for site agents, site assistants, senior project engineers and a project public liaison officer.

Jones Bros contracts director Geraint Thomas said: “Successful candidates will receive industry-leading training with clear career progression opportunities.

“Working for Jones Bros can be extremely rewarding if you are capable and show the right attitude and enthusiasm.

“In addition, it’s a fantastic opportunity to work on a significant scheme that is going to benefit the region for years to come.

“The company strives to engage with the local community as much as possible, creating career opportunities for school leavers through apprenticeships and a range of job vacancies for experienced personnel.

To view the roles and apply, visit the Jones Bros careers page on www.jones-bros.com To stay up-to-date with the latest vacancies, like the Facebook page, Jones Bros Careers, at www.facebook.com/jonesbrosuk

The story so far...

JONES Bros was awarded the contract by Cambridgeshire County Council in May after it scored highest in both quality and price assessments.

Following a re-tender process, the budget for the scheme reduced from £41.6 million to £32 million.

Initial earthworks and the construction of site entrances and the site compound have now begun.

The site has been fenced off and confined from public interaction and all activity will comply with the government’s COVID-19 restrictions and national construction site operating procedures.

Join the Jones Bros team.
Traffic management... thanks for your patience

SOME traffic management has been in place in June and July and we thank commuters for their patience during these periods. As the majority of construction takes place away from the public highway, there is limited traffic management throughout the delivery of the King’s Dyke scheme. There are no plans for traffic management in August, September and October. Please note, all plans are subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit https://bit.ly/ccctravel or search for Cambridgeshire roadwork and traffic information.

In addition, follow these accounts on social media:
- Twitter: @Cambs_Traffic
- Facebook page: @KDcrossing / King’s Dyke crossing scheme

Contact our team if you have a query

ANYONE with a query relating to the transport scheme can get in touch with our team via email or telephone. A public liaison officer will be appointed in due course and their role will be to act as the principal site contact for the public. We are looking to recruit someone with an excellent knowledge of the local area.

In the meantime, please contact Dave Waring by email davidw@jones-bros.com or phone 07341 544 307.

The site team is also working closely with community groups and the community councils to keep them updated on the project’s progress.

Copies of this newsletter will be circulated to homes near the construction site and will be made available to pick up for free at the local post office, council offices and other public buildings such as libraries. It will also be available electronically on request.

Programme of works:

- **July 2020**
  - Earthworks start

- **August 2020**
  - Main site compound built

- **October 2020**
  - Foundations for two key structures (underpass and the bridge) commence

- **February 2021**
  - Underpass scheduled for completion

- **July 2021**
  - Railway bridge scheduled for completion

- **March 2021 to December 2022**
  - Phase 2 and 3 earthworks

Further details will be published in future newsletters and at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/kings-dyke