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Welcome!

Welcome to the Autumn issue of the East West Rail Alliance project newsletter.

I wanted to start by thanking everyone who took the time to read and share the last issue of the newsletter. We have seen an increase in the readership of the newsletter and have received feedback on the format with the level of information in the local update sections we introduced in issue two being positive.

As you'll read below, perhaps the most obvious progress we have made since the last newsletter can be seen in Bletchley, where our team has dismantled sections of the Bletchley Flyover ready for it to be rebuilt to modern standards.

The dismantling has demanded a meticulous amount of planning from our team, Network Rail operations, the train operating companies, local authorities and environment agencies and I'm delighted to report all the lifts were safely completed in line with our programme. We are now in the process of removing the final elements of the structure that need to be removed before we can start the rebuild process in November/later this year.

Away from the flyover, we have continued to prepare much of the project footprint for our main construction activities to begin. We have also started work on Charbridge Lane overbridge – one of the most significant construction activities in the East West Rail Phase 2 project. You can read more on this in the content below.

In addition to the challenges Covid-19 presents from an operational perspective, it also presents us with a number of challenges when it comes to keeping residents informed of our progress. This newsletter will therefore become an increasingly important tool as we move through the pandemic, however I am pleased to report that in spite of the challenges, we have continued to engage with key project stakeholders, whether that be via our virtual supply chain engagement events, our socially distanced pop up community engagement event in Bletchley, or working with local charities to help the elderly and vulnerable who have been severely impacted by lockdown restrictions. I am also delighted to welcome our new Community Liaison Advisors, Thaina Sa'id and Vernon Loo, who will play a key role in keeping local communities engaged with the project.

Thank you for your continued interest in the project.

Kind regards

Mark Cuzner, EWR Alliance Director

Enabling works underway



Since the last issue of our newsletter, the Alliance has been preparing many areas across the project footprint for our main construction activities to begin. Highways improvements have been made, with roads widened, passing bays on narrow roads put in place, and access points for our site compounds installed. In addition, we have been constructing 'haul roads', which will enable construction traffic to travel between certain areas of the project without needing to use local roads.

We have also carried out vegetation clearance and drained areas of the old varsity line which have become overgrown and flooded since the line closed in the 1960s. In the Winslow area, in the cutting where the new station will be built, we have been busy installing new drainage, to ensure the line does not flood in future.

As reported in our last newsletter, our archaeology teams have carried out 'strip map and sample' works on a number of sites to ensure there are no archaeologically significant artefacts in the area.

Our Bicester compound is now fully operational, which will be our main compound in the area. This will be the headquarters for our teams in the Bicester area.

We have also started a number of main works activities, in particular, carrying out bridge repairs that need to be made on several existing structures.

Finally, we have begun work on one of the most significant construction activities on the project – the construction of a new road bridge on Charbridge Lane. We have been preparing the site for the construction of a new temporary road which will direct traffic away from the site so the new bridge can be built.

Lift off in Bletchley



A span is lifted from Bletchley Flyover



New Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) is installed



ALO (Any Line Open) protective hoarding is piled and installed

The EWR Alliance has successfully removed 14 spans from the Bletchley Flyover which needed to be dismantled ready for the structure to be rebuilt to modern standards later this year.

The spans previously crossed over the West Coast Mainline and Buckingham Road, and were removed during overnight shifts over consecutive weekends to ensure the West Coast Main Line could remain operational throughout.

The complex lifts have been carried out with the help of three of the largest mobile cranes in the UK - the largest capable of lifting 1200 tonnes! Once the spans were removed from the structure, they were taken to the Alliance compound off Water Eaton Road where they were crushed, with the majority of the stone set to be re-used elsewhere on the project.

With the spans now removed, the team move onto removing the remaining 'piers' which held the spans in place. These will be lifted over similar overnight weekend possessions, following which the process of rebuilding will start in November/later this year.

We are sorry that some of our works in Bletchley have had an unavoidable impact on local residents, particularly those in close proximity to the flyover, with overnight piling works taking place over the weekends and some in the midweek. It is essential we carry out these piling works to erect ALO (Any Line Open) hoardings which are needed to allow our teams safe access to the flyover to complete the rebuild whilst the railway remains open. This overnight piling activity will be complete in November and will mean we no longer need as many weekend overnight possessions. This will speed up the construction and mean less inconvenience for local residents.



To complete the work on the flyover, it has been necessary to close Buckingham Road to road traffic. The current road closure will be in place until early December. During this time a diversion will remain in operation, however pedestrian access has been maintained. On occasions where this has not been possible, the Alliance has provided a free shuttle bus to escort pedestrians around the diversion.

To read more about upcoming works in Bletchley, please refer to the Bletchley section of the local updates below.

Left: one of the spans is transported from Buckingham Road to Water Eaton Road

Introducing our new Community Liaison Advisors



Since the last issue of our newsletter, we have recruited two dedicated Community Liaison Advisors who will be responsible for engaging with key stakeholders, including members of the public across the project to keep you up to date on our progress and respond to your queries and feedback.

Vernon Loo will be covering the area between Bletchley and Little Horwood, including Newton Longville, Swanbourne, Winslow, and Mursley. Thaina Sa'id will be responsible for the areas between Bicester and Verney Junction, including Launton, Stratton Audley, Poundon, Marsh gibbon, Charndon, Twyford, Edgcott, Calvert, Steeple and Middle Claydon.

The easiest way to get in touch with the team should you have any queries or feedback would be to email us at publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk, or contact us via the 24/7 Network Rail helpline on 03457 11 41 41 or www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus.

Pop up community engagement event held in Bletchley



When lockdown measures were introduced in March 2020, our plans for hosting regular community engagement events were naturally put on hold. However, we believe it is vital for us to engage with the communities in which we are working to help keep local residents and businesses up to date and informed about project progress and so we are visible and approachable as a team.

In late September, the Alliance held two trial pop up community engagement events near our Bletchley site. The team erected a gazebo behind the site barriers at the top of Buckingham Road, with members of the team available between the hours of 10am and 3pm on Tuesday and 3pm and 7pm on Thursday to talk to members of the public about the project.

Clearly, all social distancing measures were followed at all times, with members of the public standing on markers a safe distance from the project team, and only a certain number of people allowed into the area at any one time.

Jeff Booth, Project Leader for our Bletchley works said: “the trial event was a great success and it was really beneficial for us and the people that visited us to talk directly with the team to find out more about the works. We spoke to around 30-40 people on each day and it was great to see so many people interested to learn more about what it is we’re doing.”

We will carry out further events as soon as restrictions permit us to do so, as we are aware people appreciate a face to face chat to discuss the project.

In the meantime, if you’d like to talk to us directly please contact our Community Liaison Advisors Vernon or Thaina at publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk

Virtual supply chain engagement held

On Wednesday 7 October, the Alliance hosted an online supply chain engagement event aimed at existing supply chain partners as well as prospective suppliers who may be interested in working with the Alliance.

The event was promoted via the Alliance’s [CompeteFor procurement portal](#), and via Buckinghamshire Business First, and with over 200 registrations for the event from 177 different companies, it's clear there is a lot of interest in the project from across the supply chain.

The event was a chance to bring suppliers up to speed with the status of the project, the progress that has been made and to provide some information on the opportunities that will be available through the project, and share details on our procurement and onboarding processes.

The Procurement & Commercial teams will be hosting similar supply chain engagement events on a quarterly basis.

If you are interested to learn how your business may be able to get involved in the project, be sure to [visit our CompeteFor portal](#) and sign up for alerts. You can also contact the procurement team via email at procurement@ewralliance.co.uk.

Alliance lends a helping hand in community gardening project

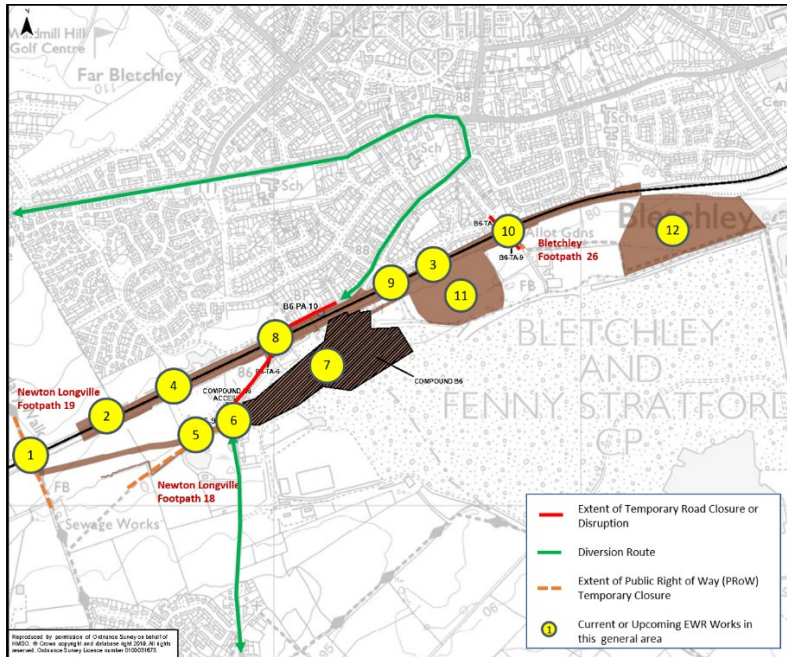


Over the summer, 20 members of the Alliance team took part in a number of voluntary gardening projects organised by local charity, Community Impact Bucks.

The teams visited elderly and vulnerable residents - many of whom had been severely impacted by coronavirus lockdown restrictions - to lend a helping hand in their gardens – observing social distancing measures at all times.

Samantha Hardy, from Community Impact Bucks said: “We are extremely grateful to East West Rail Alliance for providing us with 23 of your team members to assist us on our Gardening and Befriending project. Over the 4 days the Alliance team tackled 10 overgrown gardens in Aylesbury, Waddesdon, Quainton and Steeple Claydon which benefited 16 vulnerable elderly/disabled residents.

“The Alliance’s offer of help could not have come at a better time for us and our clients because we were behind on our gardening visits due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The team’s hard work has really helped towards getting us back on track.”



West Bletchley

1. Trenches underbridge replacement

Description: The existing bridge is to be demolished and replaced with a new bridge to support the new railway. We will also be diverting an existing water main.

Duration: Construction began in summer 2020 and is due to complete in late summer 2021.

Disruption: Newton Longville footpath 19 will be closed as the bridge is demolished and the new bridge is constructed.

Recent progress: Demolition of the existing bridge has been undertaken and work to divert the existing water main is now in progress.

Upcoming Activity: Following the diversion of the water main, construction of the new bridge structure will begin in winter 2020.

2 & 3. Railway works

Railway works are due to start in the summer of 2022.

4. Tompkins underbridge repairs

Description: We will repair and strengthen the existing underbridge so that it can accommodate the new railway.

Work will include brickwork repairs, replacing the parapets and new waterproofing.

Duration: We started ecology works in early summer 2020 and we will begin strengthening and repairing the bridge in autumn 2020. We are due to complete work in the summer of 2021.

Disruption: Access under the bridge will be restricted during the construction works.

Recent progress: We have cleared vegetation from the area and installed boundary fencing installation.

Upcoming Activity: We will begin brickwork repairs and strengthening works in autumn 2020.

5. Haul road construction

Description: We will construct a new haul road which will allow us to move our construction vehicles and machinery across some of our sites which will minimise disruption to local roads.

Duration: We began constructing the haul road in summer 2020 and are due to complete by late autumn/winter 2020.

Disruption: There will be an increase in construction traffic during the works.

Recent progress: We have cleared vegetation from the area and installed boundary fencing. In addition, we have started to construct concrete protection slabs to protect existing services and have started to install culvert crossings to allow water to flow under the haul road and prevent flooding.

Upcoming Activity: We will complete construction of the haul road in late autumn/winter 2020.

6 & 7. Compound construction and access

Description: We will build a compound to provide site offices, welfare facilities and materials storage which will be used throughout the duration of our construction work. We will also build an access route which will enable construction traffic to get onto the new railway construction site through the compound and a new haul road connecting to our compound near Whaddon Road in Newton Longville. This will mean we can reduce the amount of construction traffic using local roads between these two areas.

Duration: Works are ongoing as the site is prepared for the compound installation during the late summer/autumn of 2020.

Disruption: There will be an increase in construction traffic crossing Bletchley Road during the construction of the compound and throughout the duration of the works. We will install traffic lights to manage construction traffic in and out of the compound.

Recent progress: Construction of the new access to the haul road on the north side of Whaddon Road has been completed. Earthworks and drainage to form the new compound is in progress, and we have installed the new site accommodation units which will provide offices and welfare facilities for the workforce.

Upcoming Activity: We will complete earthworks and install tarmac surfacing during the autumn, enabling completion of the compound for occupation by winter 2020.

8. Newton Road underbridge repairs

Description: We will refurbish the existing Newton Road underbridge. Work will include new water proofing, brickwork repairs and installing new parapets.

Duration: Work began in summer 2020 and is due for completion in the summer of 2021.

Disruption: Temporary night-time road closures of Newton Road/Bletchley Road will be required during the construction works. These road closures will be published on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage displayed.

Recent progress: Site clearance, survey works and initial repairs to the bridge have taken place.

Upcoming Activity: The brickwork repairs and strengthening works will continue, requiring some further temporary night-time road closures as noted above.

9. Cattle underbridge repairs

Description: We will refurbish the existing Cattle underbridge. Works will include new waterproofing, brickwork repairs and installing new parapets.

Duration: Work will start in autumn 2020 and is due for completion in the summer of 2021.

Disruption: There will be restricted access through the bridge during the construction works.

Recent progress: Site clearance and survey works have taken place.

Upcoming Activity: Repairs to the existing bridge and deck will commence in autumn 2020.

10. Selbourne Avenue underbridge repairs

Description: The existing bridge is to be upgraded to support the new railway. The works will involve demolishing parts of the bridge, carrying out piling works to reinforce the existing structure, and installing new parapets. We will also be installing a new walkway and waterproofing the deck.

Duration: Work started earlier in the summer and will continue on the bridge until the summer of 2021.

Disruption: There have been some temporary overnight road closures of Selbourne Avenue in summer 2020, with some further closures required until late 2020. All closures will be publicised on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed.

Recent progress: Demolition of the existing parapets has taken place, together with piling works to strengthen the existing structure. The new parapet units have also been installed.

Upcoming Activity: Final concrete and brick repair works will be undertaken.

11. Compensation Flood Storage Area

Description: We will construct a new compensation flood storage area (CSFA) in this area to provide alternative flood water storage areas which will protect the area from flooding as the new railway is constructed.

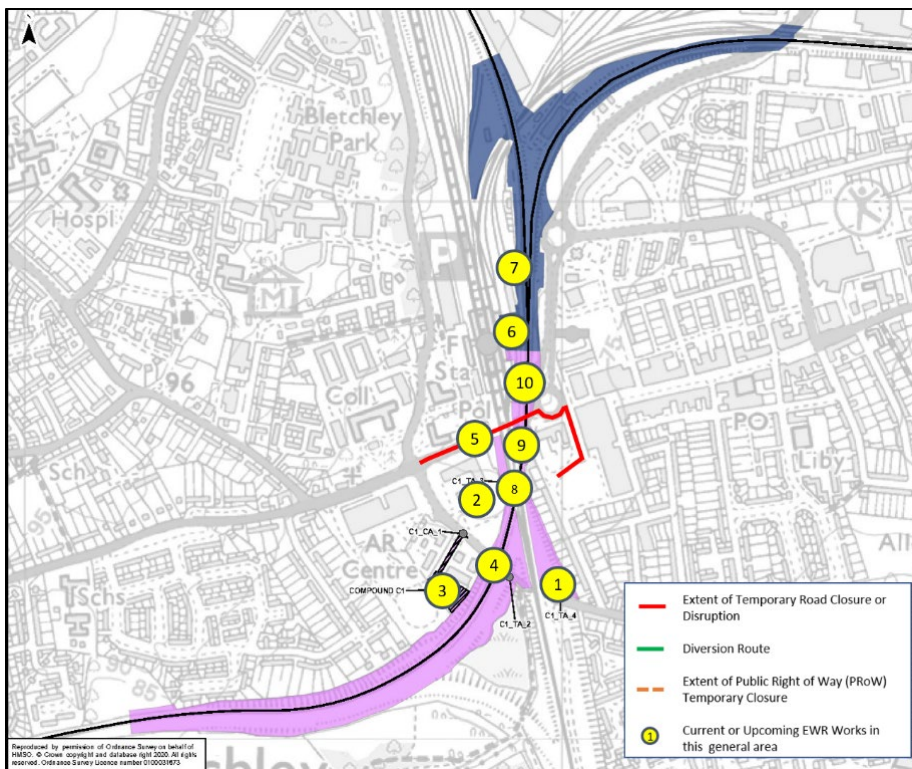
Duration: Excavation needed to create the CSFA will start in spring 2021 and is due to complete by summer 2021.

Disruption: There will be an increase in construction traffic in the area during the works.

Upcoming work: No work is due to take place until spring 2021.

12. Environmental Compensation Site

These sites have been established to mitigate our impact on the local ecology. They include the creation of aquatic habitat features like river back waters, grasslands, scrub and woodland with specific species and features for badger, otter, reptiles, great crested newts, bats, butterflies etc.



Central Bletchley

1. East Water Eaton Road Compound and access point

Description: The East Water Eaton Road compound and access road was constructed earlier in the year and provides us access to the East side of the West Coast Main line so we can carry out work on the Bletchley Flyover.

Duration: The compound and access point has been established over the last four months and will remain in place until completion of works in Spring 2022. Once works have been completed a large proportion of this area will be restored to its former condition. The area behind the new flyover structure will be used for maintenance access.

Disruption: There will be an increase in construction traffic using the compound and access point whilst the works take place. Work in this area will include night-time working. This is because much of our work needs to take place when the West Coast Main Line is non-operational – for the safety and integrity of the railway. We will be monitoring light and noise levels on site to keep disruption to a minimum. If residents do experience any issues, these can be reported to our team on site, or via Network Rail's 24/7 helpline on 03457 11 41 41 or www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus

Recent Progress: Since the last newsletter, we have installed a retaining wall along the East Water Eaton Road site boundary. This wall will allow piling for the new flyover structure to begin.

Upcoming activity: We are currently installing ALO (Any Line Open) hoarding to the railway line edge in this area. This hoarding forms a protective barrier for our workforce, which will allow us to carry out the piling works for the new flyover structure while the line is operational. This will mean we can reduce night time working, however the installation of the ALO hoarding is currently taking place during weekend night time shifts.

2. Water Eaton Road Compound

Description: Our Water Eaton Road Compound is located in the car park of the old Cable & Wireless building (aka Mercury House). The compound provides us with access to the West Coast Main Line and the Bletchley Flyover in order to carry out our works.

Duration: The compound was established in September 2019 and will remain in place until the flyover construction work is complete in spring 2022. Once works are complete, we will reinstate the land to its former condition.

Disruption: The site will be used throughout our works on the Bletchley Flyover. There will be an increase in construction traffic using the compound whilst the works take place.

Recent progress: The Water Eaton Road compound has been used to house the AK-680-3 mobile crane used to remove sections of the flyover during the dismantling we've carried out since the last newsletter was issued. The compound also houses a gantry crane, where all the sections removed from the flyover are brought so they broken up into smaller pieces before they are crushed. The crushed stone produced then re-used elsewhere on the project.

Upcoming activity: Our Water Eaton Road compound will be the main site used throughout the work we're carrying out on the Bletchley flyover.

3. Wellington Place Compound

Description: Our Wellington Place compound was established in the spring of 2019 and provides site offices, staff welfare, staff parking and materials storage, as well as an access point to the Bletchley Flyover. It is the main control centre used to manage our work on the West Coast Main Line.

Duration: The Wellington Place Compound will remain operational until Spring 2022. Once our activities are complete, we will return the land to its former condition.

Disruption: Our Wellington Place compound will cause minimal disruption. EWRA staff are not permitted to park on local roads, they must instead use the Wellington Place compound car park – helping us minimise disruption to the local community. Wherever possible, our staff access the Water Eaton Road compound via the access point provided by the Wellington Place compound.

Upcoming activity: The compound is soon to be switched on to the main power network to reduce our reliance on Diesel generators.

4, 8 & 9. Bletchley Flyover refurbishment works

Description: One of the most significant and complex elements of the entire East West Rail Phase Two project, the upgrades we're making to the Bletchley Flyover will bring the structure up to modern standards and will ensure it is structurally sound for the next 120 years. We will be carrying out maintenance and repairs in various locations spanning the length of the flyover, however, the sections that span the West Coast Main Line and Buckingham Road need to be dismantled and re-built in order to safely accommodate new, modern rail services.

Duration: Our works on the Bletchley Flyover started in August 2019, however, have ramped up significantly since April 2020. The works are due to finish Spring 2022.

Recent Progress: Since the last newsletter, we have successfully removed the 14 spans that previously crossed Buckingham Road and the West Coast Main Line. You can read more about this achievement in the main section of our Autumn newsletter. With the spans removed, we are now focusing on the removal of the piers (the concrete sections that previously held the flyover spans in place).

In addition to dismantling of the flyover, we have installed new Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) on the West Coast Main Line.

Upcoming activity: In the coming weeks we will continue to remove the remaining piers from the Bletchley Flyover. We will also begin piling activity to enable the construction of the new flyover structure and we will be carrying out utility diversions in the Buckingham Road area.

Disruption: Buckingham Road is currently closed to allow us to safely prepare to remove the remaining piers from the flyover near Buckingham Road and Duncombe Street. The road closure will also enable us to carry out the utility diversions we need to complete in the area. The road will be closed until early December. Details of the road closure are available on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage has been displayed

A protected walkway has been provided through the worksite so pedestrians can get still get access from one side of Buckingham Road to the other for the majority of the work. However, if and when pedestrian access cannot be safely maintained a shuttle bus will operate between the train station and the bus station, every 15 minutes. In addition to the road closure, residents who live in close proximity may notice an increase in construction traffic. Many of our lifts take place overnight to ensure they can be carried out safely when the West Coast Main Line is not in operation.

We will continue to monitor light and noise levels on site to keep disruption to a minimum. If residents do experience any issues, these can be reported to our team on site, or via Network Rail's 24/7 helpline on 03457 11 41 41 / www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus or via publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk

5. Buckingham Road site

Description: Our Buckingham Road site was established in early July and will be used to dismantle the sections of the flyover that span Buckingham Road and Duncombe Street. The Buckingham Road site will house two of our large mobile cranes being used to dismantle the flyover.

Duration: The Buckingham Road site was established in early July and will be in operation until winter 2020. Once our works are complete, we will reinstate the area to its former condition. However, further temporary closures will be required in future as we install sections of the new flyover structure.

Disruption: See Bletchley Flyover works section above.

6 & 7. Bletchley High Level Station & CEMEX area

Description: We will build two new high-level platforms at Bletchley Station, which will enable the station to become a stop on the East West Rail line once it's opened. The new station will be accessed via a new link bridge extension from the existing Bletchley Station platforms to the west.

Duration: The work in this area will start in early 2020 and will run through to spring 2022.

Disruption: There will be limited disruption to the existing station through this period, so train passengers should see limited impact. The access to the CEMEX concrete plant needs to undergo reworking in order to make room for the new station access stairs and lifts. We are working closely with CEMEX to mitigate the impact of these works.

Upcoming activity: We will begin preparation works - including piling for the main structure - in winter 2020.

10. Railway works

Description: Throughout the Bletchley Flyover works, we will be carrying out changes to the Signalling, Power & Communications (SP&C) equipment and Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) on the West Coast Mainline. Once the main structural works are complete on the Bletchley Flyover, we will begin to lay the new East West Rail track across the flyover. The track works are due to start in Summer 2022.

Duration: Significant OLE works have taken place over the summer and will continue into autumn. There will then be more major works taking place over Christmas 2020, when the West Coast Main Line is closed over the holiday period, allowing us to complete our work while the line is non-operational. In late Spring 2021 we will begin installing OLE equipment under the new flyover structure.

Disruption: All OLE works are scheduled to be carried out either in weekend possessions or more significant Bank Holiday disruptive possessions where the railway line is closed for a prolonged period of time.

Upcoming activity: Continuing installation of new OLE equipment throughout the winter 2020.

More Information

This newsletter has been published as a summary of works in the Bletchley area. If you would like more information on the entire East West Rail Phase Two project, scan the QR Code opposite to read our project-wide newsletter.

