

## **RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of an extra meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017

**CLLRS PRESENT:** Lowe (Chairman), Bowey, Bulgin, Harper, Marshall, Mullins, McEvans, Murphy and Powell

**ALSO PRESENT:** Five representatives from Highway England, 80 plus members of the Public, C.C. John Thorne and the Clerk Heather Bryant

**NOT PRESENT:** Borough Councillor Kelly Durdan, Borough Councillor Dave Durdan. No apologies received

### **17/6/1E APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Cllrs Dickinson and Hancock

### **17/6/2E HIGHWAY ENGLAND - A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELD SCHEME**

The representatives from Highway England gave a power point presentation. Several options for routes were considered which was left with 4 possible routes. A technical appraisal on all 4 routes were carried out to help to choose a 'draft' preferred option. The preferred route will be announced late 2017 after all the consultations have been collated. A second public consultation will take place early 2018

#### Predicted Traffic flows

The motorway slip will reduce by 19% (950 vehicles/hour)

Traffic on the J 25 roundabout will reduce by 16% (1550 vehicles/hour)

These figures include the added capacity for Nexus Employment site

There will be a new dual carriageway from West Hatch to a new junction (J25A) on the M5. The A358 to Henlade will become a local road. Traffic will be encouraged to use the new road with signing. At the new Junction traffic can either go left on the M5 to the South West or right to access Taunton and the North

Traffic figure predictions			
Year		With Scheme	Without scheme
2015	30800		
2023		25300	35100
2038		26800	39700

Questions from the Public and Cllrs and answers by Highway England	
Questions	Answers
The Nexus site will impact on the traffic figures.	The traffic figures have included the Nexus site – H.E. were aware of the Nexus site early on
Have the 5000 new dwellings in Creech St Michael been considered as well as the Nexus site	H.E. have figures for projected housing and employment overall for 6 years. This has been factored in
There is just one option for the route, will the preferred route be any different to the one on the table	It will be basically the same route but with a few tweaks
Somerset County Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council were both under the impression that the H.E. route would link into their scheme.	H.E. have been consulting with SCC and TDBC. H.E. will have to look at the consultations when received back. Cannot 2 <sup>nd</sup> guess
Why H.E. did not liaise with SCC with the timing of Nexus	H.E. are behind the Nexus project.
Why a scheme of dualling the A303 from Southfields roundabout to Honiton not considered as this would be less mileage for vehicles travelling East to West	It would be going through the Blackdown Hills (designated AONB). It would be very difficult to achieve as other possible options have to be considered first.

The models are flawed as lorries will still continue to use the A358 through Henlade. Will not achieve a Henlade by pass	H.E. stated it is predicted that traffic through Henlade will be reduced by one third. There will be signage and measures to make the new route more attractive as the quickest route. The new route will be a trunk road and the A358 through Henlade will be a local road.
J25A is not linked into Taunton	It could connect into existing roads. Not discussed with the Authorities
Will there be street lights along the route	Street lights are not encouraged these days. May be street lights at junctions
What about the noise and visual impact	The road material will be a 'quieter surface' The Environmental Team will look at the visual impact
Air pollution analysis did not have the correct figures. Henlade will still suffer high air pollution problems	Respond to the consultation and it will be looked into
Flooding – increased run-off into Henlade	Drainage has been taken into account in the design. Water will still have to go into the same watercourse
Accesses for the side roads onto the A358 route from Southfields roundabout.	There will be bridges and long slip roads but cannot link every connection. H.E. will rely on the consultations to link in the most important or well used.

The meeting concluded with the representatives from Highway England stressing that it is most important the Council/public respond to the consultation with concerns. The consultation has been extended to 16 July 2017

The Chairman thanked the representatives from Highway England for attending.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm