

## ***Information Items***

### **Closure of the A338 Broken Cross Bridge - update**

As you may be aware the bridge, which carries the A338 across the Salisbury – Waterloo railway line is to be replaced during this autumn and winter.

These works are promoted by Network Rail and we are informed that this is one of some sixty similar replacements made necessary to accommodate modern shipping containers.

In order to replace the road bridge, on the original abutments it is necessary to close the A338 from late October 2012 until mid February 2013. The extent at the closures will be from the junction of the A338 with Ford road near to St Thomas's roundabout in the south; from the junction of A338 and Hurdcott in the north; from the junction of Malthouse Lane and Ford Lane, in Ford for the south west and west of the business in Malthouse Lane to the east.

This will mean that travel between Winterbourne and St Thomas's roundabout is not possible. The local diversion route for the villages of Hurdcott and Winterbourne for destinations normally accessed by the A338 will be to the roundabout to turn left on the Portway and to join A345 at Beehive Roundabout.

During a road closure it is normal practice to maintain access for residents who fall within the closure area. Residents who live within the closure area described will receive a letter in late September offering passes. These passes may be displayed in the windscreen of the vehicle to which they relate. Network Rail will provide "gatemen" to permit these vehicles in and out of the closed area.

Arrangements of a similar nature are being made with bus and school bus operatives. It is important that no traffic other than the blue-light services are informed and aware and will accommodate this into their systems of despatch. Clearly we are working with Network Rail to keep this time to a minimum and regular updates will appear in the Parish Magazine.

The A338 normally serves as a route for vehicles from the A30, which are too high to pass under the railway bridge at St Thomas's. These vehicles will be diverted from the A30 at Stockbridge and advised to remain on the A303 at Andover.

In diverting the normal A338 traffic convoy from Winterbourne to Portway it is anticipated that London Road into Salisbury will see a reduction in traffic. Correspondingly traffic on the A345 Castle Road will increase. In order to assist in reducing this increase diversion advisory signs will be placed at Parkhouse junction, near Cholderton, on both the A338 and A303 advising drivers to use the A303 west to the A360 to avoid delays. This situation will be monitored and we are in close touch with the Highways Agency. We may call upon the Highways Agency to utilize mobile illuminated message signs to further encourage drivers to use the A360 to spread the burden. There will be a short phase of works of approx' three weeks towards the end of the contract, when it will not be possible to maintain local access through Ford village to the A338. During this period all vehicles have to use the appropriate signed diversion route.

Network Rail and their partners Carilion are in no doubt whatsoever about the inconvenience that their works are causing. Wiltshire Council officers are in close contact and this will remain the case throughout the project. This work is very important to the rail network and it

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is part of a continuing programme to move more freight to and from Britain's key docks by rail, rather than road. There is nothing frivolous or unnecessary in this work.