

Chairman's Announcement

A303 Stonehenge Project – National Highways

Current Status

The Secretary of State for Transport is going to looking again at our planning (Development Consent Order) application in what's known as a "Redetermination" process. This began in November 2021 when a Statement of Matters letter was issued asking for further information from National Highways on a number of topics including alternatives and carbon assessments. Information has been submitted as requested and interested parties have been able to comment via the Planning Inspectorate. <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-stonehenge/>. The latest situation is that further information has been requested by the Secretary of State with a deadline of 11 July. At some point in the future, the Secretary of State will make an announcement whether the scheme will get the go-ahead or not.

Main Works Contractor announced

We are delighted to announce that the MORE joint venture is our preferred bidder for the £1.25 billion contract for the tunnel and main construction work for the A303 Stonehenge scheme. The joint venture comprises internally renowned companies FCC Construcción, WeBuild and BeMo Tunnelling. They will be making best use of UK skills by using a range of local, regional and national suppliers and contractors to help them deliver the scheme, and will be supported with a design partnership made up of Atkins, Jacobs and the Spanish company, Sener.

This announcement follows a 2 ½ year comprehensive procurement process with shortlisted tenderers developing their design solutions for the project. The contract will only become live once the Secretary of State for Transport has concluded the current process of relooking at the planning application for scheme, following the quashing of the decision to grant the Development Consent Order last year. Announcing our preferred bidder in no way pre-empts any decision. Once the planning process is finalised and if the scheme is given the go-ahead, having a contractor in place will ensure programme timescales are maintained and will put us in the strongest possible position to deliver the scheme and the benefits we know it can.

If businesses are interested in working on the proposed A303 Stonehenge project, please sign up to our Business Directory, and we will pass on details to our contractors.

Community Engagement

We have just completed a series of pop-ups at local communities (Shrewton, Winterbourne Stoke, Durrington, Amesbury and Salisbury) and a live Q&A with our Project Manager. Due to COVID and delays to the project, it has been longer than we would have liked since we were able to talk in person to local residents. We were pleased that over 350 came to our “chatty van” and more online. We listened to people’s questions and concerns, and intend to continue getting out and about. If any parish councils would like us to come along to a meeting, we would be pleased to, or we would welcome any other suggestions.