

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 June 2021

Agenda Item 8 – A350 Melksham Bypass Consultation Report

Statement from Alan Baines – Melksham Without Parish Council

**To Councillor Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Transport,
Waste, Street Scene and Flooding**

Statement

Good morning, thank you for allowing me to contribute to aid your discussions in respect of the report into the options for an A350 bypass for Melksham.

I've been a member of Melksham Without Parish Council since 1973, and the A350 has featured constantly for all of that time and even before. Finally, it now looks as though there is the opportunity to sort it out properly between Lacock and Littleton roundabout at Semington.

The Highways Officer's report has carefully analysed the various route options and correctly concluded that an alignment to the east of Melksham and Bowerhill is the only logical solution. That will mean that the vast majority of the route will be in the parish of Melksham Without, so the Parish Council therefore wish to engage in the process of choosing the optimum alignment.

Whilst it has been acknowledged that there could be alternative alignments to be examined at the northern end, a similar examination at the southern end is not mentioned. There has been no evaluation of the advantages, disadvantages, mitigation measures needed or the cost and value of any alternatives between the crossing of the A365 and Littleton roundabout. It seems odd that it's being suggested this North - South route should run over a kilometre due West! Just as the section from Littleton roundabout to the bottom of Hag Hill was added to the Semington - Melksham Diversion scheme a few years ago to overcome a similar anomaly, surely some consideration of alternative alignments at the southern end is needed. There has also been no evaluation of any benefit of alignments which separate the A350 through traffic from the local Melksham - Trowbridge traffic, which would obviate the need for dualling any part of the existing road.

There has been a long-held desire to relieve the High Street of Seend village of A361 through traffic and an improved alignment between the A365 and Littleton roundabout would address that. So, Melksham Without Parish Council would urge that a full evaluation of all possible different alignments at this end of the scheme is conducted to ensure the best eventual outcome is achieved in all respects.