

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

AMESBURY AREA BOARD 25<sup>TH</sup> March 2010

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**AMESBURY AREA BOARD – FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE  
A338/A346 WORKING GROUP REPORT**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To give further consideration to the A338/A346 Working Group's report (summary report at Appendix 1).

**Background**

2. The Amesbury Area Board considered the recommendations and conclusions of this report at the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 board meeting, and resolved the following:
  - a) Noting the report and presentation from the A338 / A346 Working Group, the Amesbury Area Board considers that further work is needed (including to St Thomas's Bridge in Salisbury) to make the report's conclusions and recommendations a more viable proposition.
  - b) Officers should be asked to give support and advice to the Working Group in carrying out the further work required.
  - c) Relevant Wiltshire Councillors should be invited to work with the officers and Working Group on the further work requested.
  - d) The Chairman indicated that the Board would give this item further consideration.
3. An "extraordinary" meeting of the Amesbury Area Board has therefore been requested by the Chairman for the 25<sup>th</sup> March for the board to give further consideration to this matter.

**Main Considerations**

4. The recommendations and conclusions of the A338/A346 Working Group Report are attached at Appendix 1
5. The Working Group has asked the Tidworth, Pewsey, Amesbury, and Marlborough Area Boards to each give consideration to the report, requesting that each Area Board approve the report and to request that Wiltshire Council make an application to the Department for Transport for the corridor road to be de-primed.
6. The Marlborough Area Board will be the last to consider this report on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Following this, a report collating all comments and conclusions from each of the four Area Boards will be produced and submitted to the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport's consideration.

## **Conclusion**

7. The Amesbury Area Board is asked to give further consideration to the A338/A346 Working Group's report, and to submit its comments and conclusions to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.

**KAREN LINAKE**

Community Area Manager - Amesbury

**Marlborough and Tidworth Community Area A338/A346 Working Group.**

**Summary of Report on LGV Issues dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Introduction**

The A338/A346 Corridor stretches for 34 miles from Salisbury in the south to the M4 Junction 15 near Swindon in the north and is classified as a National Primary Route, marked in green on road maps and on road destination signs.

This single carriageway route passes through Marlborough and a number of villages, and great environmental damage is caused by the many Large Goods Vehicles (LGVs) which use this route.

**Objective**

The objective of this report is to examine ways in which the amount of through LGV traffic may be reduced along the Corridor.

**Factors.**

- 1. Volume of traffic.** A survey carried out by Wiltshire County Council in 2006 established that the volume of traffic along the Corridor is heavy. There are about 7,000 vehicles per day between the A303 and Marlborough, and 15,000 north of the town of which about 10% of the traffic consists of LGVs. North of the A303, 26% of the LGV northbound traffic along the Corridor was through traffic i.e. 13 LGVs per hour in each direction. The volume of Corridor traffic between the A303 and Salisbury is less than in the north, but still substantial.

**Conclusion.** Based on the information contained in the main report, this road is inadequate and unfit for purpose for the volume of traffic which passes along it.

- 2. Priority locations.** The report describes the main problem Locations along the Corridor, and the dangers they present.

**Conclusion.** This road is unsuitable for the level of LGV traffic which it already has to bear.

- 3. Future increases in traffic.** Vehicle movements to and from the proposed Andover Airfield and the Solstice Park Regional Distribution Centres may increase LGV through traffic along the Corridor by up to 14 movements to about 39 movements per hour.

**Conclusion.** This adds weight to the conclusions in Factors 1 and 2 above.

- 4. Social Impact.** Poor air quality and noise pollution are at serious levels in Marlborough. Also LGVs are a major problem in villages south of Marlborough.

**Conclusion.** LGVs have a serious impact on the quality of life of those living along the Corridor.

5. **Accidents.** Most sections of the Corridor have an accident rate which is above the average for 'A' roads in Wiltshire.

**Conclusion.** Based on data contained in the main report, if the LGV traffic on the Corridor is reduced, it could result in a reduction in the number of accidents and in the number of people being killed and injured by up to 9%.

6. **The National Primary Route Network.** The Corridor is part of the nationally designated National Primary Route Network. The imposition of any weight or other restrictions on these roads is against Government policy.

**Conclusion.** The chances of achieving any restrictions which would reduce through LGV traffic along the Corridor are slim unless the Corridor road is de-primed so that its status is reduced from its current status as part of the National Primary Route Network.

#### 7. **Bypasses.**

Attempts have been made to secure bypasses along the Corridor. All but the one for Burbage have been unsuccessful due to cost, technical problems and environmental issues.

**Conclusion.** It seems unlikely that any bypasses will be built along the Corridor in the foreseeable future.

#### 8. **Satellite Navigation Systems.**

There are various technical problems which offer little prospect of reducing LGV traffic through SATNAVs, except in the long term. See main report for further details.

#### 9. **Economic Impact- Alternative Routes.**

A viable alternative route, as stated in the WCC's Strategic Lorry Plan, to the Corridor road is available via the A303 to the east, north along the A34 and then west along the M4 to Swindon. Details given in the main report show that the running time for LGVs using this alternative route compared with the Corridor road is similar, and in some cases slightly less than up the A338/A346. Proposed Government Plans are for all Primary Routes to be used by LGVs and if this policy is approved the fact that the A338/A346 is not a Wiltshire Strategic Lorry Route will no longer apply.

**Conclusion.** The likely environmental gain from using the A303, A34 and M4 route rather than the Corridor is substantial, and the economic impact is likely to be broadly neutral.

## **Options Available.**

### **1. Bypasses.**

Unlikely to be available in the foreseeable future, and if any are built they will merely encourage more vehicles to use the Corridor road and add to the existing problems.

### **2. De-Priming.**

It may be possible to arrange for the A338/A346 to be declassified as part of the National Primary Route Network. If that is done, it could allow for restrictions to be imposed on those roads to prevent through LGV traffic from using the Corridor road.

## **The Preferred Strategy.**

**Option2, De-Priming**, after which weight/width/length and night-time restrictions to be imposed along the Corridor and on other roads such as the A345. Once the principle of de-priming has been accepted, a detailed study will be required to determine the location of appropriate signage to prevent through LGVs from using the Corridor route.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS.** The full Report and all attachments may be viewed online at the Collingbourne Ducis website [www.collingbourne-ducis.com/A338-346WG](http://www.collingbourne-ducis.com/A338-346WG)