

Mrs Liz Goodall
Chief Executive

Your Ref:

Our Ref: LG/BD

Date: 10 February 2009

North Dorset District Council
Nordon, Salisbury Road,
Blandford Forum, DT11 7LL

Tel: 01258 454111

Fax: 01258 480179

Web: www.north-dorset.gov.uk

Mr Malcolm Wilkinson
Regional Performance Manager
Network Operations South West
Highways Agency
2/06K Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6HA

COPY

Dear Mr Wilkinson,

A303 Willoughby Hedge to Mere

The North Dorset District Council meeting on 30 January 2009 unanimously passed the following motion:

This Council:

1. calls on the Highways Authority to dual carriageway the A303 trunk road between Mere and Wylve and urges Dorset County Council and Wiltshire County Council to make representations to this effect;
2. asks the Chief Executive to write to neighbouring authorities seeking their support for these representations.

The reasons given for the motion were as follows:

- The A303 needs dualling as a strategic arterial route and because of the high volumes of freight and traffic using it.
- The three month repair work planned for Willoughby Hedge to Mere will cause chaos by requiring freight (Westbound) to go through 'B' roads which are not of sufficient standard to take it, nor of sufficient safety standard (no pavements, etc.).
- The suggestion is that an appropriate stretch of dual carriageway be implemented first so that when the repairs are done, the traffic can use the new carriageway during the repair period.
- Full dualling would be available when the repairs are completed.

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Mr Malcolm Wilkinson

10 February 2009

I trust the Highways Agency will urgently and seriously consider the suggestion in this motion.

Yours sincerely
Iris Goodall

- c.c. Ms Manjeet Gill, Chief Executive, Salisbury District Council
- c.c. Dr Keith Robinson, Chief Executive, Wiltshire County Council
- c.c. David Jenkins, Chief Executive, Dorset County Council
- c.c. Robert Walter MP
- c.c. Gillingham Town Council
- c.c. Bourton Parish Council
- c.c. Buckhorn Weston Parish Council
- c.c. Mere Parish Council

Direct Line: 01258 484140
Facsimile: 01258 484007
E-mail: LGoodall@north-dorset.gov.uk

Our ref:
Your ref:

Geoffrey Miller
District Councillor
Bourton & District
Hollyhome
West Bourton Road
Gillingham
Dorset SP8 5PF

Malcolm Wilkinson
Regional Performance Manager
2/06K
Temple Quay House
2 The Square, Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6HA

Direct Line: 0117 372 8088
Fax: 0117 372 8728

18 December 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

A303 WILLOUGHBY HEDGE TO MERE

There has been some recent press coverage that does not reflect the current position about planned closure of the A303. I wanted to assure you that the Highways Agency is urgently reviewing the proposed works, and that there will not be a 12 week closure.

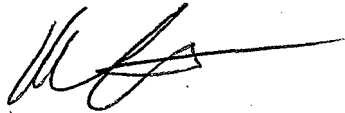
The A303 is an important route into the south west and is in need of maintenance to ensure that it is in good condition and safe for road users. In planning the A303 Willoughby Hedge to Mere major maintenance scheme, the Highways Agency have contacted stakeholders like yourselves. From the comments received following Public Information Days and the Stakeholder Consultation held about this major scheme, the Agency recognised that a proposed road closure of 12 weeks is not acceptable to many road users.

The maintenance work planned is essential because there have been 16 road defects within the last year requiring immediate attention as they threatened public safety or serious damage to the highway infrastructure. Overall, there were a further 206 defects in the same period that were less serious but still required repairs to be made.

The Highways Agency with its contractor, is currently undertaking a full review of the scheme in response to the concerns raised. This review will include the construction programme, the extent and type of works and the need to reduce the impact and inconvenience of this scheme to road users and the general public. The brief for the review is to develop a scheme which will have less significant impact than originally proposed.

I will write to you again once this review is complete, early in the New Year, to inform you of the revised proposals.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Wilkinson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Malcolm Wilkinson
Network Operations South West
Email: malcolm.wilkinson@highways.gsi.gov.uk