

13 November 2013

Dear Mr Glen / Mrs Perry MP

### **A303 & Consequent Rat Running on Roads in the Amesbury Community Area**

As Chairman of the Amesbury Area Board, Wiltshire Council, I am writing to you regarding the ongoing issues associated with the A303, and the consequences of rat running on roads in this Community Area.

These issues, as you will know, have been ongoing for many years. However, local opinion and consultation through the Amesbury Area Board indicates that these issues are much exacerbated by the construction of the Stonehenge Visitor Centre and the associated road/roundabout works.

As you will know, the Area Board hosted a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> September to which over 200 local people came to voice their concerns on this matter. The debate was transmitted live on BBC Television South and on BBC Radio Wiltshire.

The Area Board agreed at that meeting to take forward a number of concerns and suggestions which it believes it is able to take action on. Principally, these are:

- (1) Continue to lobby for a 30mph speed limit through Winterbourne Stoke (A303) (this is essentially for pedestrian and highway safety reasons)
- (2) Continue to work with partners and volunteers to ensure speed limits are better enforced in Winterbourne Stoke (A303)
- (3) Negotiate with the Highways Agency on the siting of Wiltshire Council Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) at either end of Winterbourne Stoke
- (4) Ensure SIDs are placed at suitable sites in Shrewton on the A360 and B3086
- (5) Nominate the A360 Shrewton as a route for a 20mph speed limit
- (6) Work with Wiltshire Council Highways and the Highways Agency to resolve issues of congestion/rat running exacerbated by the new roundabout layouts at Airman's Cross and Countess Roundabout
- (7) Continue to stress the need for the dualling of the A303 through this Community Area and a bypass for Winterbourne Stoke
- (8) Work with Wiltshire Council Highways to ensure weight limits are appropriate on all rat running routes
- (9) Ask the Highways Agency to set up electronic signage on the eastern stretch of the A303 (around Andover) informing all of the levels of congestion at Countess Roundabout as a way of reducing the potential for rat running

- (10) Recommend to English Heritage that a bund be built between the A303 and Stonehenge to minimise congestion caused by motorists slowing down to look at/photograph the stones
- (11) Work with English Heritage – Stonehenge Management Plan to solve these issues of the A303
- (12) Consider the appropriateness of reviewing speed limits on the C42 Woodford Valley and C291 Orcheston to prevent these roads being used as rat runs
- (13) Consider the appropriateness of a roundabout at Rolleston Crossroads directing traffic down the B3086 for the A303 and A360 to prevent rat running in Orcheston

The Area Board requests your support on all of the above, especially those actions or measures which you can specifically influence – perhaps, above all the dualling of the A303.

The Area Board will continue to monitor this situation and to take action where possible to ensure that the concerns of all who live, commute through or visit this Community Area are taken seriously. I will keep you informed of any developments or issues that may occur.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Yours sincerely

***Cllr John Smale***

***Chairman - Amesbury Area Board***