

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

AMESBURY AREA BOARD, 31 July 2014

A303 & Rat Running - Update

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. To update the board on the actions taken on this matter since the last board meeting in May.

2. Background

2.1 This has been a local priority for many years, but since recent escalation of rat running and congestion associated with the opening of the Stonehenge Visitor Centre, the board agreed to more aggressively pursue this matter since its meeting with community representatives in July 2013.

3. Update

3.1. Traffic Flow Monitoring on Routes Surrounding A303 Stonehenge Visitor Site

A full update on this was given at the May meeting to present the analysis of monitoring carried out earlier this year. A subsequent update will be given at the October or November board meeting on the monitoring to be carried out in August.

3.2. Assessment of Countess Junction – update from Highways Agency

This section of the A303 was included as one of six feasibility studies announced by the Government as part of their commitment to deliver long-term investment in transport, with the aim of identifying and funding solutions to address certain issues on our road network. The scope of the study is to review, and potentially update, the details of previous improvement proposals, as well as considering other possible solutions. It will cover all sections of the A303, including Stonehenge, and will look to identify potential solutions that not only offer value for money but that are also deliverable. The study will report back to the Department for Transport in this autumn.

The Highways Agency is also currently developing investment strategies for the strategic road network on a route basis. The A303 forms part of one of these route strategies, namely the South West Peninsula, and the feasibility study described above will be used in conjunction with this. The first stage in the development of the route strategies, to gather evidence from stakeholders, is now complete. The details are available on our website at:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/publications/route-strategies-evidence-reports/>

The next stage will be to identify the range of proposals that could address the problems along the corridor and then work to assess the affordability, value for money and deliverability of these. We aim to produce our overarching route strategies by March 2015. These will be used to establish outline operational and investment priorities for all routes in the strategic road network for the period April 2015 – March 2021, and give an indication of the priorities beyond March 2021.

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