

# **RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **HIGHWAY ENGLAND - A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELD SCHEME (HE)**

Highway England has announced that they have chosen a modified version of the pink route as their preferred route for this scheme. Listed below is the Council's response to the chosen option and listed below the current response, is the response the Council made in February 2018.

### **Council's response to the chosen route. (July 2019)**

- There is no additional junction to access the M5 which will mean that all traffic will feed into the existing J25 to access the M5 (North and South) and Taunton. There will be significantly more traffic as traffic will be encouraged to use this route to travel to and from the South West instead of the A303 from Southfields roundabout.
- Concern that having only one junction will not alleviate queuing traffic as currently happens especially in peak times but will actually increase the queuing traffic.
- Major works is being carried out at present on J25 to facilitate Nexus Business Park which will cause disruption until 2021. It is envisaged that there will be disruption beyond 2021 by HE to necessitate further upgrading work on J25 roundabout.
- The by-pass route for Henlade goes straight through the hamlet and will result in a severance of the community.
- There will be significant increase in traffic along Stoke Road
- This route does not address the views of the Parish Council in the Council's previous response in February 2018. The Council's preferred route was a combination of the three options (Pink, Blue and Orange)

### **Council's response to the to the 3 options (pink, blue, & orange) which was a combination of the 3 options in February 2018**

#### Pink route: from Southfields roundabout to Junction C.

This route will pick up traffic from the A378 (Langport road) as otherwise this traffic would use the existing A358 through Henlade

#### Blue route: from pink route Junction C, cut across to the blue route to Junction D.

This route compared to the pink route will not go through Lower Henlade as the pink route will have an adverse effect on air quality, severance of the community with possible compulsory purchases.

#### Orange route: from blue route Junction D, pick up the orange route to Junction F.

The pink & blue routes will provide a Henlade bypass and a connection (spur) to Nexus 25. However, to use the pink or the blue route entirely will not ease the congestion on the junction J25 roundabout as there is likely to be a build-up of traffic at peak times with delays as traffic not going to Nexus 25 will be using the spur road to access the M5. The Council considered it was important to have another 'all movement' junction to access the M5 to travel north and south. Vehicles that are going to Taunton town will likely to use Junction F, travel north to J25 and access Taunton by this route as it is the quickest.

The Council would like to stress that the chosen route **must** provide Henlade with a bypass and provide an 'all movement' junction to access the M5 to travel north or south. Any option without these two provisions will result in the residents of Henlade continuing to suffer with traffic congestion and poor air quality.