

## VILLAGE DAY 2019 – THE NEW A358 – QUESTIONS FOR PARISH RESIDENTS RESULT

### Report

The Survey of Parish Residents was conducted on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in conjunction with Ruishton Village Day held on the Ruishton recreation field. The weather was dry, warm and overcast. Three representatives of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) were in attendance to encourage participation and explain the purposes of the survey. On display was a large scale, NP produced, version of the new A358 road proposal recently announced by Highways England (HE). The display was accompanied by copies of the HE produced leaflet which was made available to participants to read and take away. NP banners were displayed, a leaflet and poster setting out the purposes of the NP was also available to take away and the representatives wore NP lanyards. In addition a diagram illustrating the current Somerset County Council alterations to Junction 25 on the M5 was also on display.

The purpose of the survey was to gain an impression of a selection of local views on the impact of the new road from a resident's perspective. It was also intended to make residents aware of the proposals and to encourage them to consider benefits that might be achieved alongside the construction of the road.

The survey took the form of a tick box questionnaire with multiple choices associated with five questions, as follows;

1. What changes to the old A358 would make it better for residents and local users?
2. How could Henlade be improved for local residents?
3. The 'new' road will separate Lower Henlade from the rest of the village. How could this be addressed?
4. Junction 25 will need to be remodelled again to deal with the traffic from the 'new' road. What should be the priorities?
5. There will be a new junction at Thornfalcon joining the A378 (Langport Road) to the new road. What should be the priorities?

Sixty questionnaires were completed by adults, some as individuals others by couples. There was also informal debate with the NP representatives on the details of the scheme, the relationship between the scheme and current road works at Junction 25 and on likely time scales.

The raw data from the questionnaire is listed below. In summary the responses to questions was as follows;

1. In relation to changes to the 'old' A358 cycle paths (80%), pedestrian crossings (72%) and traffic calming (70%) were strongly supported by roughly three quarters of the respondents with landscaping (40%) supported by many.
2. To improve Henlade for residents the provision of community facilities (70%), shops (52%) and play space (43%) were strongly supported.

3. To maintain the links between Lower Henlade and the rest of the village new footpaths (83%) and cycle paths(80%) were strongly supported as was landscaping (47%).
4. On Junction 25 cycle paths (82%) and pedestrian access (80%) were strongly supported, as were park & ride access (58%), landscaping (47%), and reducing noise (43%).
5. Regarding the new junction at Thornfalcon many supported cycle paths (77%), pedestrian access (60%), landscaping (48%) and reducing noise (35%).

These results will inform the neighbourhood plan and this report will be offered to the Parish Council to use in its representations to Highways England during the examination of the new road planning application.

JC (22/7/19)

## **VILLAGE DAY 2019 – THE NEW A358 – QUESTIONS FOR PARISH RESIDENTS**

**The new road is due to be built by 2025. What can be done to improve the lives of residents?**

**1 – What changes to the ‘old’ A358 would make it better for residents and local users?**

- **Traffic calming – 42 (70%)**
- **Pedestrian crossings – 43 (72)**
- **Landscaping – 26 (43)**
- **On-street parking – 6(10)**
- **Cycle paths – 48(80)**
- **Other – Make single carriageway/Pedestrian bridge / Prioritise pedestrian & cycle routes/ Boulevard planting**

**2 – How could Henlade be improved for local residents?**

- **Car Parks – 10(17)**
- **Play space – 26(43)**
- **Community facilities – 42(70)**
- **Housing – 3(5)**
- **Shops – 31(52)**
- **Other – Reduce noise & pollution/ Support PO/ Cycle paths**

**3- The ‘new’ road will separate Lower Henlade from the rest of the village. How could this be addressed?**

- **New footpaths – 51(86)**
- **Cycle paths – 48(80)**
- **Landscaping – 28(47)**
- **Other – Maintain access across new road through Stoke Rd (x2)/ Safe access routes**

**4- Junction 25 will need to be remodelled again to deal with the traffic from the 'new' road. What should be the priorities?**

- **Cycle paths - 49(82)**
- **Pedestrian access - 48(80)**
- **Park and Ride Access - 35(58)**
- **Reducing noise - 26(43)**
- **Landscaping - 28(47)**
- **Other - Minimise contact with traffic for safety**

**5 - There will be a new junction at Thornfalcon joining the A378 (Langport Road) to the new road. What should be the priorities?**

- **Cycle paths - 46(77)**
- **Pedestrian access - 36(60)**
- **Landscaping - 29(48)**
- **Reducing noise - 21(35)**
- **Other - Slower speeds**

**FILL IN THIS FORM AND LEAVE A COMMENT ON THE BOARD**

**Thanks from the Neighbourhood Plan team, Chair - Mike Marshall 1/7/19**