

## NOTES FOR BERWICK ST JAMES PARISH MEETING AGM, 2004.

### 1. Apologies

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### 2. Minutes and Actions arising from 18th meeting, held on 3 February, 2004.

- a. A36. A continuing action, still outstanding. The mind of the Highways people is probably too occupied with all the alternative route proposals and arguments for the A303 change to pay much attention to the A36 at present. But there remains a continuing action.
- b. B St J Bridleway 3. I did write to the County Council as instructed saying we wanted the layout of the track to be left as it is and that we wanted it to remain a bridleway rather than become a byway.
- c. Stonehenge improvements and Parker Plan. See later agenda item, but I did write saying we voted unanimously against the Parker Plan, and to Henry Colthurst saying we supported the views he intended to present to the Inquiry about the various route proposals.
- d. Youth Club. No progress to report.

### 3. Election of Officers

Are there any nominations for the 3 post, chairman, vice-chairman and clerk? The present officers are prepared to stand again for another year, if needs be.

### 4. Treasurers report

Tina Woodford will speak.

### 5. Stonehenge tunnel and A303 Improvements Inquiry.

The Inquiry has been running now for about 4 days a week since 17th February. I have attended on 2 or 3 days, but there is not a lot to report, as you will understand if I explain how the Inquiry works.

The Inquiry is held by the Planning Inspectorate, and run by the Inspector, Michael Ellison. He was appointed by the 1st Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Transport

- to conduct inquiries into 7 draft orders necessary to bring about the proposed scheme .. (which is made up of the Winterbourne Stoke by-pass, dualling of the road between Berwick Down and Amesbury, and includes the (short) tunnel past Stonehenge).
- 'Inquiry' means to hear all views, for and against the proposed scheme.. and for Alternative Route proposals... enabling the Inspector to report on these to the Secretaries of State with his RECOMMENDATIONS.

- The Secretaries of State will then consider the report and publish their decisions in due course.

The point is this is all very formal. It is not a debate leading to a decision, but a 'hearing' of peoples' views (and generally they have to be written views). with cross questioning by the Highways Agency and English Heritage. Every document and word is put on record.

It is difficult to say how things are going, and what the likely upshot will be. However I can make some observations.

AR1 The route is the dualling of the A303 , but with the road in cuttings past Stonehenge, yet allowing traffic some glimpses of the stones from King Barrow Ridge. Not many attended this presentation, but there was some feeling of public support for allowing 'the owners of the Stones' (all of us) to see them from the road without having to pay for the privilege.

AR4 The Parker Plan. Parker and Ellis (the proposing 'team') asked why no organisation had objected to their plan. I think maybe they now realise this could have been because people thought they could not be serious'! However the Highways Authority have assessed the plan and issued a report of their assessment..which was considered by the Inquiry.

The Parker Team stated they were representing the views of the Association of Council Tax payers, of which there are about 450 members. Mr Ellis would not tell me if there were any in Berwick.. I think the point was taken that the Parker Team were presenting the views of a minority, most of which might not even be affected by their proposed route.

Col. Parker also explained that AR4 was being put forward as a 'concept' for proper consideration if the tunnel scheme was dropped. (i.e. start again the whole design and Inquiry process). I predict we may well hear no more of the Parker Plan.

It is likely that, as Henry Colthurst deduced in his draft paper he read to us at the last meeting, that the proposed scheme will be recommended for go-ahead. In which case earliest start would be Spring 2005, and completion in about 2009.

## 5. AoB

5.1 We have received a letter from the Girl Guides. This is mentioned in the Parish Magazine, but a date to remember is a 'Collectables / Antiques' evening on Thursday 24th June, in ther Guide Centre. Tickets from the shop.

5.2 Learn how to use a PC! Would we be interested in the Salisbury College Mobile Learning Unit coming here? This is a mobile classroom, and we might be able to arrange for computing courses. Any interest, or have all with PCs already learnt how to use them?

5.3 Any more AoB?