

DRAFT to ALL relevant Parties (including Chris Loder)

RE: National Highways Vision for Road Strategies

Chideock Parish Council is delighted to have the opportunity of collaborating on the current Road Strategy Consultation and read with interest the National Highways document "Vision for Road Strategies". The aspirations expressed in this document are admirable with a great emphasis upon engagement with local interested parties and road users.

Chideock Parish Council represents the small community of Chideock in West Dorset which sits astride a very "unglamorous" part of the Strategic Highway Network, in fact a part of the Network that has been ignored and severely under-funded for many years. This is the 37 miles stretch of the A35 between Dorchester and Honiton which is largely single carriageway and totally outdated for the huge volume of traffic that it is forced to carry.

The National Highways Maintaining Agent recorded that for the 12-month period of 01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018 the two-way Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flow on the A35 to the east of Chideock (at London Inn) was 16,371 vehicles per day.

Although Chideock was mentioned as a "pinch point" in RIS1 there was absolutely no mention of it again in either the Consultation for RIS2 or in RIS2 itself. This was also the case for the Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Board which also totally ignored Chideock. Indeed, the whole A35 west of Dorchester was left out of both the STB Consultation and RIS2.

Highways England (as it then was) seems content to fund many consultations but implement very few of any findings. For instance, the WSP Chideock Safety and Severance Report published in January 2019, which identified 16 problems within the village. The Report discounted all but 4 of these, and these 4 now appear to have disappeared off the agenda. It is improvements that the Village seeks **NOT** an endless round of expensive (and ultimately meaningless) consultations.

So please engage fully with Chideock Parish Council as an "interested party" and let us finally get together to resolve the problems of the A35 through our Village which include:

- Illegal levels of traffic related NO₂ pollution (Source: National Highways and Dorset Council Monitoring Figures)
- Excessively high levels of traffic related PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ pollution which National Highways and Dorset Council refuse to even monitor (Source: BBC Countryfile October 2019)
- Areas where no pedestrian footway exists
- Areas of adverse footway cambers (particularly dangerous for the increasing number of disabled users within the Village)
- Traffic noise / vibration within a few meters of all homes along Main Street (A35) of which over 35 are Grade II listed
- Speeding traffic - Average Speed Cameras are a possibility as National Highways keeps advising, but then withdrawing
- Severance issues since the A35 literally splits the Village into two halves north and south of Main Street
- Adverse impact onto the local economy through unpredictable journey times if passing through Chideock.

National Highways has been aware for many years that there is only one actual solution to these problems and that is the removal of the bulk of A35 Traffic, possibly by a local bypass.

Dorset Council has a duty to consider the impact of the A35 through Chideock in its environment plan and have to date failed through its strategic network plan to identify with partner agencies any alternative practical measures or route to mitigate the various forms of pollution .

So Chideock Parish Council hope that, by the promised engagement with interested parties and road users, National Highways will finally implement a solution to the traffic related problems that Chideock suffers daily 52 weeks of the year.

Finally, the Parish Council considers that "feedback tool" associated with this document is pointless and not fit for purpose.