

# COMMUNITY MATTERS

26 May 2017

Our last communication to you was on 6<sup>th</sup> March, so here is a short update.

**Update.** For those of you who attended the Village Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May or have read the minutes, will be aware that we spoke at the Wiltshire County Council (WCC) meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March and reported that WCC were officially in favour, at this stage, of the Northern bypass route.

Highways England (HE) reported to have received 10,000 responses following their A303 Stonehenge public consultation, which is taking them a lengthy time to process. We are led to believe that the responses have been weighted in order to take into account local views. Our own comprehensive reports have definitely made HE sit up and perhaps given them even more consideration to the weight and views of local opinion. There is no doubt that this complex road infrastructure is one of the most challenging ones. There are many complex issues for HE to address and to address comprehensively.

A significant development is that Arup Atkins (contractors) have not had their contract renewed. However, they are still required to finish their reports and hand over all information to the new contractors AECOM and Mace [refer to James Hardy's 'Flood Report'] in September.

**What is CPSTV doing?** The group has remained extremely active and are focussing on meeting, and engaging with, all the key players and influencers. This process continues. We are confident that we are talking to the right people and that they are paying attention to the strong and

coherent arguments that we have brought to bear.

Due to the imminent General Election, we believe that material recommendations and announcements will more than likely slip by a month to September.

**Your money.** As we have reported, we have spent approx. three quarters of the funds raised on our investigations and reports. The balance of which will be retained for the time being until we have concluded that we have done all we can to mitigate the impact of, or even improve, the chosen route.

**What's to follow?** We will continue to put pressure on HE and all other key influencers both before and after the election. Our aim is to achieve as broad a consensus as is possible to secure the right route. Support of local economy, preservation of communities, reduce rat runs, protection of ecology and material difficulties with hydrology all lead us to believe that such a route does not include a Southern bypass.

We continue to feel positive about our chances and that we are going in the right direction. We are doing our utmost to work hard on your behalf and with the interest of the whole Southern Till Valley at heart.

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