

To: Secretary of State
c/o The Planning Inspectorate

From: Chitterne Parish Council

“For the attention of the A303 Stonehenge Case Team”.

Representation from Chitterne Parish Council for the purposes of the re-determination of the application by National Highways (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the construction of a new two-lane dual carriage way for the A303 between Amesbury and Berwick Down in Wiltshire.

The small village Chitterne - along with other local villages - is badly affected by 'rat running' caused by the constant traffic congestion on the A303 past Winterbourne Stoke and Stonehenge. The large volumes of cars frequently ignoring the 30mph speed limit, heavy goods vehicles ignoring the 17t weight limit and coaches (including double decker buses) accessing/exiting the Stonehenge Visitor Centre use the B390 through Chitterne to avoid jams on the A303 past Stonehenge and Winterbourne Stoke. This puts residents and all non-vehicular roads users at risk on a daily basis. Air quality is an issue at busy times.

The B390 through Chitterne is unsuitable for this high volume of fast-moving cars and heavy vehicles as in places there is no footpath. At the west end of the village the road where there is no footpath, it is too narrow for either two large vehicles or a large vehicle and a car to pass at the same time. For a pedestrian to access the houses to the east end of the village it is necessary to cross the road three or four times avoiding high volumes of traffic that are regularly exceeding the speed limit.

Chitterne Parish Council are supportive of the scheme to tunnel the A303 past Stonehenge and to bypass Winterbourne Stoke as this the only way that local communities will be spared the constant streams of 'rat running' traffic through their villages. The Applicant in their response states that traffic forecasts along the A303 have increased by about 10%. If the tunnel is not built, a proportion of this additional 10% of traffic volume will be passing through Chitterne and other communities local.

The sooner The Applicant (National Highways) is given an Order granting Development Consent for the construction of a new two-lane dual carriage way for the A303 between Amesbury and Berwick Down in Wiltshire the better. In order to maximise the benefits to local communities of this large amount of public expenditure we strongly urge that action is taken to ban all large tourist coaches visiting the Stonehenge Visitor Centre from using the B390 through Chitterne. These vehicles should be made to use the upgraded A303 to access/exit the site.

Chitterne Parish Council

Please send all correspondence to The Clerk at [REDACTED]