

Committee: Planning Highways and Transport

Date: 7 June 2022

Title: A358 Public Consultation Review – Documents from National Highways

Purpose of Report

For members to review and consider the consultation documents from National Highways

Recommendation:

- a) Members to delegate to officers to submit a collective response from the Town Council using comments from this meeting on the 7 June 2022
- b) Members agree to support proposals put forward from the Community of Parishes in response to the revisions

Report:

1. The Council agreed to join the Community of Parishes (CoP) that were working together to present a unified approach to the planned A358 enhancement scheme.
2. Over the past few months there have been a number of emails circulated to members regarding the ongoing communications between representatives of the CoP, National Highways, SSDC and SCC.
3. Members were notified that there would be a further Supplementary Consultation carried out by National Highways between 24 May and 26 June 2022 to consider revisions that had been made to the plans for the proposed scheme.
4. Three dates were also set aside for members of the public to meet with National Highways at in-person consultation events. These have been arranged for;
 - 26 May – Monks Yard
 - 8 June – Somerset County Cricket Club
 - 11 June – Taunton Race Course

5. The Town Clerk and members of the Town Council attended the event at Monks Yard and it became clear that there are still issues at the Southfield Roundabouts end of the proposed scheme. Listening to comments from others attending the event it was clear that people had other wide-spread concerns over a number of aspects related to the scheme.
6. The issues directly relating to the Southfields Roundabout end of the scheme include;
 - Traffic flow transition east bound from the A358 onto the A303 – one can visualise the traffic coming around a sharp filter lane onto the A303 to be confronted by static vehicles. The potential for accidents if this occurs would clearly increase.
 - There are plans to create a crossing on the A358 by Ilminster services so that pedestrians can cross the A358. They are then effectively being left stranded on an “Island” with no crossing in place to allow them across the west bound A303. Traffic coming of the roundabout and heading west would be accelerating thereby having no or little time to react to someone trying to cross the road.
 - Anyone walking to Ilminster from Ilton is going to be directed to the Ilminster Services section of the A358. There are no plans at present to make any adjustments to the east bound A303 to allow people to safely cross the carriageway on foot.
 - With the building of a new McDonalds restaurant in this area there is a very real likelihood that there will be an increase in the number of people
7. As a result of attending the event Cllr Hamilton has provided **Appendix 9A** that allows members to see the issues being raised and has suggested that National Highways may wish to consider the possibility of including a bridge or similar to allow people to cross the westbound section of the A303 rather than forcing them to face taking increased risks trying to cross.
8. The Community of Parishes met on Monday 30 May to discuss their collective response to the full impact of amendments and the consultation. Cllr Hamilton has provided a separate update from this meeting and can be found in **Appendix 9B**
9. Under the current Terms of Reference for this committee it is delegated authority has been agreed for members to agree a resolution that will be noted by Full Council at its next Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9

10. Resolutions that members may wish to consider are detailed below or they may wish to agree one of their own
 - a. Members to delegate to officers to submit a collective response from the Town Council using comments from this meeting on the 7 June 2022
 - b. Members agree to support proposals put forward from the Community of Parishes in response to the revisions.

Mark Tredwin
Town clerk
June 2022