



Queen Camel Parish

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 6th February 2018 at St Barnabas Church

The meeting was called by the Parish Council so that residents could give their views about Highways England (HE)'s plans for the A303 and the proposals for a Garden Settlement. The meeting was chaired by John Brendon (JB), Chairman of the Parish Council, and attended by 70 residents of Queen Camel and neighbouring parishes. JB opened the meeting by thanking the Church Wardens for the use of the venue and explained why the meeting had been called. He hoped that it would come up with ideas which would help Highways England improve the scheme.

A large number of different points were made by individual residents including the following:

On the A303 scheme

- A road on the line of the present A303 should be maintained alongside and parallel to the new dual carriageway; this would not incur any extra cost.
- The single roundabout solution proposed for the Sparkford junction would add 800,000 Km annually in journeys to and from Hazlegrove; this is environmentally unacceptable.
- The road scheme will increase the risk of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) on the High Street being forced onto the pavement, causing damage and possible accidents.
- Although the meeting was very well attended those present were still only a small minority of the electors and could hardly be said to represent the whole Parish.
- Those who complained about the Preferred Route Consultation really seemed to be complaining about its choice of Route 1.
- Since HE is building the road we need to work with and influence them, not call them names.
- Residents who live along the High St need to accept that it is a trunk road with through traffic, but once the new A303 is built the road will be quieter.
- The traffic has got worse in recent years. We need to lobby for the weight limit to be enforced now and for construction traffic to be monitored and controlled.
- HE wants the new A303 to become an Expressway, probably by 2015, closed to tractors etc., so we need to know where will all the tractors go? We don't want them up and down the High Street
- Tractors are the life blood of farming and QC has always been a farming village so tractors should be looked on favourably.
- The planned flood alleviation measures are inadequate and HE needs to come up with something better.
- People who have lived in the village for forty years do not want to see it wrecked by the huge increase of traffic during construction.
- HE representatives at the Public Information Event seemed unclear about whether HE or Somerset County Council Highways would be responsible for managing general traffic during construction. We should get this clarified sooner rather than later.

- HE representatives have said that there would 2-way traffic throughout the construction period, with a 40mph limit.
- We need to be aware that the different authorities do not always work together.
- We need to make sure that HE takes measures to ensure the safety of Blackwell Lane.
- It is important for different local communities to co-ordinate their responses to this scheme. *JB explained that there was a plan for representatives of Queen Camel, West Camel and Yeovilton Parish Councils to meet on February 13th for precisely this purpose.*
- Highways England is now a private company and it is not always very good at communicating.
- Queen Camel must raise its concerns at the Planning Enquiry and seek answers.
- Cars drive too fast from the mini-roundabout along West Camel Road, endangering children.
- Many cars use Gason Lane as a short cut; it is not safe.
- Even though HE has chosen Route 1 the Planning Inspector could change this or even stop the scheme altogether.
- Engineers are likely to win arguments about flood mitigation so it would be better to concentrate on other issues such as the idea of access via Traits Lane.
- Many people rejected Route 2 for environmental reasons but this would become irrelevant if the Garden Settlement were to be built; Route 2 would then become the better option.

On the Garden Settlement (GS)

- Are the GS proposals the reason for the A303 scheme? *JB said this was not the case.*
- The GS would put a strain on Queen Camel's shop, Medical Centre and other facilities.
- How does the GS fit in with the South Somerset Local Plan and the Planning Authority?

District Councillor Mike Lewis explained his view:

- The GS is a speculative proposal.
- Although the idea of a Garden Settlement was live in the timescale of the Local Plan review it is not in the current Local Plan proposal. The number of dwellings it would provide is far greater than South Somerset requires in the period up to 2034.
- Something similar to the GS is a good idea but not in the proposed location. It would be better if it were nearer to Cartgate and with better road links.
- Flooding is always an issue, but drainage from North of A303 takes a different route across to Bridgewater and does not feed into the river Cam.
- The GS proposal is likely to be considered by SSDC who would consult with all the communities who would be affected.

JB explained that the ideas which had been put forward at the meeting would be published and would be considered by the Parish Council at its next meeting, on 12th February. He thanked everyone for attending and wished them goodnight.

The meeting closed at 19:20.

Minutes Prepared by Chris Bennett and issued by Patrick Pender-Cudlip

13th February, 2018