

ROADS UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARGARET PHIPPS

Resurfacing of the A338 – Winter 2015/16

Between September 2015 and April 2016 it is planned to carry out works to the A338 between Blackwater Junction and Ashley Heath Roundabout. The road will be dug up to be restructured and resurfaced, drainage works will be carried out, and concrete barriers will be erected along the length of the central reservation to replace the existing metal ones.

These works have the potential to increase traffic through the area. Recently County Cllr. Margaret Phipps and Ward Cllr. Sue Spittle both attended a meeting at the County Council offices to find out further details and discuss traffic management, but it is likely that residents could face delays at peak times during the works.

It is planned that there will be 24 hour working, 6 days per week, Monday to Saturday inclusive. There will be one lane of the A338 open in each direction at all times. Cllr. Phipps has asked that advance signing is put in place to deter HGVs from using roads which are unsuitable for them. Margaret and Sue will be attending future meetings which are planned prior to the commencement of the works, and will keep the Residents' Association updated.

Closure of New Road, Parley in March 2015

The A347, New Road, in West Parley will be closed for repairs, for three weeks from 2nd March. The area to be closed off is the road below Parley Cross up to Ensbury Bridge over the River Stour.

The structure of the road is severely damaged and needs to be repaired. The county council are employing specialist contractors who will be able to recycle the material in situ and by adding bulking and binding elements will give the road a new lease of life. The work is part of the council's planned highway maintenance and will include resurfacing and resolving drainage issues.

All residents and businesses along this stretch of road have been contacted and the teams will ensure that people and essential services have access. Discussions with Go buses and Yellow buses are on-going to minimise the disruption to passengers.

A diversion route will be signed via the B3073 Christchurch Road to Longham, A348 over Longham Bridge and A341 through Kinson. There will be full pedestrian access at all times, but cyclists will be asked to dismount. All the businesses at Parley Cross will be open and accessible from the crossroads.

During this closure work will start on repainting and repairing Ensbury Bridge, continuing until 3 July. Following the reopening of New Road a restriction of narrow lanes will allow light vehicles such as cars, vans and buses to pass over the bridge but not HGVs. A diversion route will be put in place and advertised. Temporary traffic lights will be used at the end of the project so that the scaffolding can be removed.

Information from Dorset Highways with Plans for a new Hurn Roundabout

Dorset Highways is seeking to increase the capacity of key junctions on the B3073, including Hurn Roundabout. This will relieve existing traffic congestion around the airport and help to facilitate new development in the area.

We consulted the public about the project back in 2013. Based on the consultation responses, we have dropped the signalised junction option; and, we have moved the roundabout further from Hurn Bridge to retain the prominent oak trees opposite Parley Lane.

Towards the end of 2013 we submitted a planning application for the roundabout. However, a number of key stakeholders requested additional information that we didn't have. Therefore, we withdrew our application in 2014 and carried out further assessments.

The assessments have allowed us to develop the scheme further, ensuring we have a complete proposal that is the best we can deliver within the constraints we face. The plan included with this newsletter shows the most up-to-date proposals and includes an early draft of the indicative landscaping scheme.

The assessments have also allowed us to move a step closer to a revised planning application. We have recently submitted a revised Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report. This report allows the Local Planning Authority to decide whether or not a full EIA is required to support the planning application. If the full assessment is not required, we expect to submit the revised planning application in Spring/Summer 2015.

At this stage there isn't a vast amount of scope to change the proposals for the roundabout. However, there is some, such as type of surfacing for the Riverside Cottages access road and the landscaping scheme. If you have any suggestions for these aspects of the project, or even if you just want to ask some questions, email us at highwayimprovements@dorsetcc.gov.uk. You can also ring us at 01305 221000 and ask for the Highway Improvements Team with reference to Hurn Roundabout. You can also visit the project web page at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/hurn-roundabout> which may answer any questions you have.