

Reference: S/2009/1527/FULL & S/2009/1528/LBC dated 19 Oct 09

OBJECTION

COMMENTS:

1. Mr Madge has confirmed that, even though this application may not lie within a Parish boundary, responses from Parishes in the general area of the application are welcome; for this reason Bulford Parish Council is replying formally in the normal way to this application and, for the same reason, this reply has been copied to other Parishes in the general area where there may be an interest.

2. Bulford Parish Council does not support this proposal to site the new Stonehenge Visitors' Centre at Airman's Cross at the junction of the A360 and A344.

3. The single carriageway stretch of the A303 that lies between its junction with the A344 and the Long Barrow Roundabout (junction A360/A303) is already severely congested and the proposed closure of the also busy A344 taken together with the additional tourist traffic (that will have to be carried on the A303 as far as the Long Barrow Roundabout) will exacerbate this congestion to a perfectly intolerable degree. In addition, the stretch of the A360 between the Long Barrow Roundabout and its junction with the A344 at Airman's Cross is also already busy and this stretch will have to carry a significantly heavier traffic load.

4. This will have secondary adverse consequences :-

a. The A360 provides a valuable alternative route into and out of Salisbury and the proposed obstruction at Airman's Cross will cause motorists to abandon this and revert to the A345; this will increase traffic through Amesbury and add to the present confusion and delay at the point where the A345 crosses the A303 at the Countess Roundabout. Drivers amongst this traffic, who are seeking to rejoin the A360, will then travel through Larkhill along The Packway and drop down to the A360 in Shrewton along the B3086: the final length of the B3086, through Shrewton itself, is an extremely narrow and hazardous stretch of road that is wholly unsuitable to carry any increase in traffic.

b. Any increase in congestion on the A303 west of the Countess Roundabout (where the road narrows to single carriageway) will cause even more traffic to divert from the A303 at Folly Bottom (Solstice Park) and travel through Bulford Village, Durrington, and Larkhill. The initial length of road into Bulford from Folly Bottom is a C Class road and this diversion is already developing into a "rat run" of significant proportions for which the road is wholly unsuitable; anything that would add to this diversion of traffic, as this proposal will certainly do, would be a completely regressive development.

5. For these reasons, Bulford Parish Council considers that the proposal is ill-conceived and ill-planned and should be refused, at the very least until the A303 is developed into a dual carriageway throughout its length between the Countess and Long Barrow Roundabouts. Moreover, Council sees no advantage in closing the A344 which is a very useful short stretch of road that relieves pressure on the A303.