

North Dunstable By Pass

There have been 3 public exhibitions by the Highways Agency in December and January showing the proposals for the North Dunstable By Pass going from the A5 in the West to the M1. This will also incorporate the new Junction 11A of the M1. It was mentioned at the CVA EAGM on December 14th, so I hope that many of you went to see it.

The main issues with the scheme is that there is very little to benefit the village, despite the fact that we will be close to the road and the M1 junction will be in the Parish. We will not be able to get onto the By Pass from the Village, nor the M1, even though we are so close to the scheme. This is unacceptable to us as we have all of the development imposed on us with few benefits. We would require connections to the M1 and the By Pass to enable us to have a lorry ban. This could only happen if the By Pass was extended across North Luton to Streatley, so that they can also have lorry bans and benefit from the new By Pass. Without the North Luton section, Sundon and Streatley would gain in traffic flow, so a lorry ban for us would be unworkable.

The other major negative is that the projected traffic flow through the Village after the road has been built would be an increase in traffic, by about 900 vehicles per day. This would be going towards the M1 Junction 12, as sites such as the Vauxhall Spare Parts works and the Camford Way industrial estate would also not be able to join the motorway at 11A.

This scheme will have a considerable impact on the Village, so I urge you to make your comments known. If you missed the exhibitions, you can view the details at the following venues until 2nd March 2010:

Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall,
Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP

Luton Borough Council, Town Hall,

George Street, Luton, LU1 2BQ
Central Bedfordshire Council,
The Council Offices, High Street North,
Dunstable, LU6 1LF

Houghton Regis Town Council,
Council Offices, Peel Street, Houghton Regis,
Bedfordshire, LU5 5EY,

Dunstable Town Council, Grove House,
76 High Street, Dunstable, LU6 1NF

You can send your thoughts in writing to:
A5-M1 Link Team,
Highways Agency,
5 Broadway,
Broad Street,
Birmingham, B15 1BL

Or by email to:

A5-M1Link_Dunstablenorthernbypass@highways.gsi.gov.uk

The main issues that the Parish Council wish to be pointed out to the Highways Agency is that by creating the Junction 11a in the best way, it can actually be of great benefit to us and the neighbouring villages.

If we had full access to the junction through the existing roads, we could then seek a lorry ban through the village. In order for this to work properly though it would have to include the completion of the North Luton By Pass, which will go from Junction 11a to the A6 by Streatley. Without this being built, the traffic that we prevent using the village would still go through Streatley and Sundon, probably in greater numbers than at present.

As we need the support of the surrounding Parishes in the developments to the south of us, it seems best that we seek something that will benefit the whole area, not just us. It would also mean a lorry ban could be imposed from Junction 12, down the Bridleway to the Fancott, through our village, along the Sundon Road all the way through to the A6 at Streatley.

As the North Luton By Pass is not going to be funded by the Highways Agency, they are not

looking at the scheme as part of a much greater development. We do not know if they see the road as merely a local by pass or part of a more strategic road from the west county to the east coast ports as has been mentioned. This would make a difference in the way the road would be connected to other local roads. We would hope that when the North Luton By Pass is built, the junction can be connected to the benefit of all.

We will also need to know if people living close to the junction. Such as at Sundon Road will be entitled to any compensation should there be an adverse effect on their properties. They will have additional noise, light and possibly traffic on their doorsteps, so they will wish this to be addressed.

There is also the length of time taken to build the road and junction and how long the village will be potentially cut off from the roads to the south during construction.

There will also be individual properties that will be sacrificed, such as the five properties at the cross to be demolished and Long Meadow Farm and Hillcrest who will have some land taken for roads to be re routed. There are a large number of reasons to write in. Again, I would say that while the Parish Council will write in, you should also, as more letters will highlight the concerns we have. You may also have concerns that we haven't thought of.

On a highways related theme, we obviously have had problems in the village with the snow and ice. The grit bins have been stocked up occasionally, but this is just about enough to cover the roads. Please do not use this to keep your drives and pathways clear. It is for the roads and there is no point us residents in the Heights being able to walk to our cars on the drive but not get the cars onto the roads. If you need to clear your driveways, use the grit if the roads are clear and there is enough. Do not take more than you need. Alternatively, buy salt from the supermarkets.

There have not been many people clearing the roads and as usual, it has been left to a few people. If we all cleared a section of the road outside our houses, there would not be a problem. Well done to those few that have helped clear the road.

Russell Currell, Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.

Pensioners Christmas Lunch.

We were unable to put on a pensioners Christmas Lunch last year due to an unco-operative pub landlord at the Star, but I am pleased to say that with new a new Landlord, we were able to hold the lunch again and it was bigger and better than ever.

I would like to give huge thanks to Pete and Jackie at the Star for hosting the lunch and making it such a success. The food was excellent and well received. I have had letters of thanks from happy lunch goers and would like to re emphasise the effort and co-operation from Pete, Jackie and the staff at the Star. Also thanks to Doug Hazel, who donated a turkey, as he has done in the past. With nearly 50 people having lunch this year, it really was a successful and popular event.

If there is anyone who could have been there but missed out, please let the Parish Council know who you are so that we can make sure you are invited again. We do put the details in the Parish Magazine, but some people still get missed.

Russell Currell, Chairman, Chalton Parish Council.

Future Parish Council meeting dates for 2010:

February 8th

April 12th

May 10th (AGM).

June 14th

August 9th

October 4th

December 6th

At present the venue is the school, but may be in the Village Hall at times.

CVA NEWS

As many of you are aware the former CVA committee members resigned on December 14th 2009. There is now a new committee of 12 members who are working very hard behind the scenes.

We have begun cleaning the hall and hope to redecorate soon, however we are waiting on a structural inspection to be carried out (planned Feb 2010) as there has been some serious deterioration in the buildings structure. Provided the building is fit for use we can start to take new bookings (we have had several enquiries already). We will then be focusing on some **serious** fund raising for various projects and utility bills that always need paying!!

A big thank you to the many of you that took the time to complete and return the recent questionnaire, copies of results are available upon request, but to keep costs to a minimum it would be preferred to forward them on by email. By formulating an email contact list for villagers it will be easier to keep you all up to date of forthcoming events and news and save time and money as well.

Please don't hesitate to ask anything, if there is an answer we will tell you. Remember the CVA is a representation of all villagers and the hall is for everyone to use, all villagers are welcome to join us at any committee meeting to ask questions, make suggestions or to just simply listen,

everyone is included and all views valued. A list of meeting dates and times can be found in the village notice board.

We will be keeping you regularly updated in the parish newsletter of any news and the treasurer will be publishing our financial position once this is fully known every quarter.

Your new committee is

Chair

Claire Brimble 86 Luton Road

Treasurer

Steve Goodman 33 Chalton Heights

Secretary

Nicky Noble 64 Chalton Heights

Bookings

Sandra Morris 11 Forge Close

Lisa Ayres, Diane Delicate, Vicki Aldred, Alison Williams, Michael Szpytko, Jane Baker, John Walsh, and Kevin Brimble.

Nicky Noble, Secretary, CVA.