

A358 Scheme The Situation in May Response of local Parishes



The local community was faced with the prospect of closure of the majority of local connections to our A358, with all local traffic diverted through country lanes and roads to either Mattock's Tree Green junction (next to Thornfalcon) or Ashill junction. This would mean that most local traffic would have to drive through either Hatch Beauchamp or Ashill.

Since May eight local Parish Councils have worked together to develop proposals to improve connectivity to the new dualled carriageway. We sent these Community Proposals to Highways England (HE) on 14 June.

You can download the Community Proposals from the Notice Board on our village website:
www.westhatchparish.org.uk

Proposals so far adopted by Highways England

- The link from Village Road to existing Thornfalcon junction.
- A direct link from Ash Road to Somerset Progressive School and Business Park.
- Griffin Lane no longer considered a major local road!
- The Hatch Beauchamp bridge is moved 250m Northwest.
- Broadway will be connected to Ashill junction by new road.

HE is reluctant to adopt our remaining proposals as the road has been earmarked to be an Expressway, something slightly below Motorway standard. Expressway standards prohibit connectivity to minor roads and HE believes the 2 junctions provided are sufficient. We disagree. Expressway standards prohibit roundabouts at the ends. We agree, as the roundabouts are the cause of congestion. HE disagrees. Inconsistencies abound in HE's thinking.

Our proposals would keep the local network basically as it currently exists, with connections to the A358 similar to what we all see driving up and down the A303. Our proposals are therefore feasible.

HE's proposal increases the risk of accidents on local roads and in our villages. Our proposals protect our well-being and our safety. We are still lobbying Highways England. PLEASE SUPPORT