

North Wootton Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish

Hazel Brinton PSLCC

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Mr Stuart Brown
Chief Executive
Mendip District Council
Cannards Grave Road
SHEPTON MALLET
Somerset
BA4 5BT

26 November 2019

Dear Mr Brown,

Impact of Proposed A361 Pilton Bypass on North Wootton

North Wootton Parish Council (NWPC) wishes to place on record its opposition to the two schemes under consideration to provide a bypass on the A361 round Pilton as described in Mendip District Council's (MDC's) Major Roads Network presentation dated August 2019.

This opposition was confirmed unanimously by all NWPC members at a packed Parish Council meeting held on 19th November. The many members of the public present on the 19th also expressed their opposition to the proposals.

We also wish to record our dissatisfaction with the way information on these developments has been released. We received no communications of any kind from MDC on these proposals until after we heard about them informally via social media last month, after which we contacted our District Councillor, Nigel Hewitt-Cooper, who advised us to contact Julie Reader-Sullivan which we did by email on 16th October to find out what was happening.

Subsequently we have been represented and asked questions at meetings of the MDC Cabinet on 4th November, with Julie Reader-Sullivan on 19th November and with James Heapey, our outgoing Member of Parliament, on 21st November. We have also been represented at a number of discussions amongst groups of concerned residents of this and neighbouring parishes.

We have also received a letter from Mr Heapey advising that neither he nor the outgoing government support the Pilton bypass aspect of the A361 proposals.

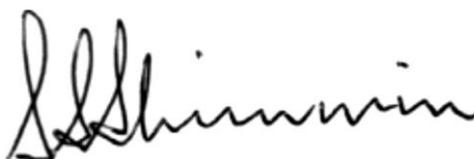
In our discussion of the schemes at the NWPC meeting on the 19th we recognised that there are problems with the A361 that do require attention but agreed that the current proposals for a Pilton bypass are disproportionate and insufficiently thought through. The routes proposed are technically challenging and fail to take proper account of the local topography

so would be unnecessarily expensive. Most importantly, they would have a permanently damaging effect on this tranquil part of our Somerset parish for a relatively limited gain. They fail to take account of simpler and cheaper options which might achieve similar results but with much less damage to rural countryside.

To summarise we therefore request:

1. that you withdraw your support for the Pilton bypass aspects of the A361 proposals as currently drafted.
2. that in future you keep us fully and promptly informed about this and any other plans likely to affect the parish.
3. that, before taking this any further, the relevant officers and elected representatives accept our existing invitation to visit the areas potentially affected to see for themselves the impracticability of what is proposed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Shimmin', written in a cursive style.

Simon Shimmin
Chairman

CC:

The Peninsula Transport Board (FAO Board members)
C/O Plymouth City Council, Transport Strategy
Ballard House
PLYMOUTH
PL1 3BJ

Somerset County Council (FAO Mr Pat Flaherty, Chief Executive)
County Hall
The Crescent
TAUNTON
TA1 4DY

District Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (by email)

County Councillor Graham Noel (by email)

County Councillor John Woodman (by email)