

Annex I to Appendix C

Report to Council 8th March 2018

from the Infrastructure Planning Group

Major Road Network Consultation

At its meeting on 2nd March, the Infrastructure Planning Group considered the response to the Government's Major Road Network Consultation.

It agreed to recommend to Council that the following points be made :

- The A325 should be part of the major road network given that it is a key diversion route when the A3 tunnel at Hindhead is closed. It was anticipated that this would be a rare occurrence when the tunnel was opened and the old A3 blocked up, but the Hindhead tunnel is closed with increasing regularity.
- There is a missing link in the National Road Network, namely a link between the A3/A325 and M3 to the West of Farnham.
- There is an urgent need to provide a relief road or a bypass for Wrecchesham. This has been talked about for decades but with the increased development around Farnham (estimated at 30,000 homes including those at Bordon); the increasing use of the A325 by HGVs and the significant number of HGVs that hit the railway bridge at Wrecchesham Hill this is now urgent.
- Despite the large number of new homes being built, there is no consequent improvement in the strategic road network that will improve the situation in Farnham.
- Farnham itself has two A roads travelling through a narrow one way system in an historic market town causing an air quality problem that exceeds European levels.
- The A287 and A325 need to be declassified to avoid the town centre.
- The A331 Blackwater Valley Relief Road and the A31 are already at over capacity at peak times, and any problem on the A31 gridlocks the centre of Farnham.
- The Council recognises that funding may not be available for the whole project in one phase and that two phases be pursued. Phase 1 from A3 to A31 and Phase 2 from A31 to M3.

The Infrastructure Planning Group further recommends to Council that a resolution is passed :

Farnham Town Council seeks the support of strategic partners to:

- 1) deliver a solution that relieves congestion and poor air quality and improves the future economic viability of the town.
- 2) Declassify the A287 and A325 in the town centre to minimise the unnecessary journeys by HGVs and others that cause dangerous levels of air pollution in the town
- 3) Secure an alternative route around Farnham as part of the Major road network.