

A303 Stonehenge scheme Community Forum

Terms of Reference: what it's for, what it will do, and how

Purpose

The Community Forum will provide a way for Highways England to engage with communities local to the A303 Stonehenge scheme. It will be a forum for local bodies/groups to get up-to-date information about the scheme, feed back into the scheme about any local issues, and understand how the scheme will progress. The forum will help local communities, via their group representatives:

- Find out accurate, up-to-date information about the scheme, through the consultation and planning stages and during construction. This could include information about the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, what local communities can expect in terms of traffic and environmental benefits and how delivery will be managed
- Ask questions of the project team, bringing their constituents', members' or stakeholders' questions to the forum
- Understand what the scheme means for them and how it will progress over the years

Potential attendees are:

- The A303 Project Manager or deputy
- Wiltshire Council's Amesbury Area Board Manager
- A representative from the World Heritage Site Coordination Unit
- A representative from the scheme's Technical Partner/contractor (i.e. the suppliers who will be planning and doing the work)
- A representative from Amesbury Town Council
- Representatives from surrounding local town and parish councils
- A Ministry of Defence representative
- Others such as community group representatives

The membership would:

- represent a broad section of the local communities who will be directly affected by the scheme
- offer elected representatives the opportunity to represent their constituents and involve them in matters about their local communities
- Ensure there are enough experts/representatives from the project team to be able to provide information and answer questions

We will keep working with the Amesbury Area Board Manager to make sure any groups who have an interest are included wherever possible.

We'll consider offering representation (one person per group) from any local group with an interest in the scheme.

How will the forum work?

- We will have an independent chair. The forum will be impartial and will be run and steered independently. It will not be a mouthpiece for Highways England, its suppliers, or any one particular local group or interest
- We will meet quarterly at Amesbury
- The forum will have no decision-making or financial authority. Any ideas emerging from the forum will be referred to Highways England or other relevant bodies for deciding whether resources/funds are to be invested
- Highways England will provide the secretariat

Inputs

The forum will need the following information and participation to work:

- An agenda, as agreed by the forum, and circulated prior to meetings. (following the first inaugural meeting agreeing the terms of reference)
- Updates from Highways England about how the project is progressing and what is coming up
- Feedback; ideas; active discussion with local community representatives

Outputs

What the forum will do:

- Agree ideas, feedback and representations to take to Highways England
- Assign actions for participants to take away to their organisations, groups or companies

We are keen for the forum itself, via the independent chair, to take ownership of the format and style of meetings. We are clear that this needs to be a forum acting as a good conduit between the local communities and Highways England.