

A69 HAYDON BRIDGE BYPASS – KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Dear resident

The Highways Agency is keen to involve the people of Haydon Bridge during the process of building the new bypass around the village and this newsletter provides us with a fantastic opportunity to keep you informed about what we are doing.

A Liaison Group meeting was held on Thursday 5 October 2006, attended by the Highways Agency, our Contractor CVC Highway Solutions, resident groups, council officers and a representative of your local MP Peter Atkinson. At this meeting it was confirmed that Ministers have given the A69 Haydon Bridge bypass the go-ahead and have asked the Highways Agency to 'make' the Orders for the scheme that were published in draft and considered at the Public Inquiry last April.

The Highways Agency believes the project will significantly improve quality of life for local residents, drastically reducing heavy traffic through the village and unifying the community. We look forward to beginning work on the scheme.

We do listen to residents' concerns and one issue that arose during the public inquiry was a wish to include lighting on the eastern junction where the A69 currently meets the A686 Alston Road. As part of the on-going development of the bypass we will now be including lighting at this site.

You may have noticed some work taking place in the river during October. We would like to assure residents and anglers that this was merely advance survey work to assess the nature of the riverbed where the bridge will be built.

We understand the river's importance in terms of salmon breeding which is why we carried out the work before the spawning season began.

The Highways Agency is expecting to begin advanced work on the site in the New Year, once it has agreed costs with the contractor. At this point the site will be secured, the compound built and land will be cleared. The major road building work will begin in Spring 2007.

In order to provide more information to residents, a Start of Works exhibition is planned for January 2007. This will give you the opportunity to meet with the Highways Agency and CVC Highway Solutions when we can explain more about the schedule for the scheme and endeavour to answer any questions you may have.

The Highways Agency is keen to work with the whole of the community to explain exactly what we are doing. If any resident or group has any ideas as to how we could work together to both encourage interest in the scheme and emphasise safety issues (particularly for children), please get in touch. You can contact Kevin Walsh on 01228 673099 / kevin.walsh@capita.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

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