

# COMMUNITY MATTERS

7 February 2017

## ***“A Community Group campaigning for the Preservation of the Southern Till Valley”***

**Who are we?** We are a focussed group of residents from the Southern Till Valley who have volunteered to work together for the preservation of our tranquil community.

**Our Banner:** *“Campaign for the Preservation of the Southern Till Valley”*

**Why are we doing this?** We are very concerned that Highways England is seriously considering an A303 bypass to the south of Winterbourne Stoke.

**Why the name?** The threat from a southern bypass is not just to the peace and quiet of individual villages. It would slice through the Till Valley between Berwick St James and Winterbourne Stoke resulting in unacceptable levels of pollution (air, light and noise), ecological damage to wildlife and the river, loss of rural paths and bridleways and horrific destruction of the landscape. Both villages form part of a tight community that dates back to Norman times.

**Who is in the group?** Residents living in Berwick St James and Winterbourne Stoke - this is not a closed shop. If you think you have something to contribute please let us know by contacting Neil McDougall, who will point you in the right direction. Should you prefer not to join the group, you can help by sharing your thoughts, expertise or experience. We need all the help we can get.

**What is the group doing?** We are working together to ensure that everything that can be done is being done to protect our valley. We have met every weekend for the last four weeks and will continue to do so until we have exhausted every avenue.

**How are we doing it?** Our approach is to present a compelling case for the bypass to go to the north of Winterbourne Stoke and to make it very clear that it would be wrong to bring it south. We are doing this in a number of ways:

- ❖ Challenging Highways England on the lack of data available.
- ❖ Commissioning consultancy companies to provide irrefutable scientific and ecological data in which to present our arguments for an improved, and more acceptable, northern bypass as well as highlighting the flaws for the southern bypass.
- ❖ Planning a co-ordinated campaign to address the media to ensure our voice is heard as well as dealing with all aspects of social media. Creating banners for B3083/A303/A36 and other visuals.
- ❖ Encouraging all residents in the southern Till Valley to complete questionnaires in support of the northern bypass.
- ❖ Liaising with other villages and relevant organisations to endorse our campaign.
- ❖ Speaking to the Local Authorities and our Member of Parliament.
- ❖ Holding a meeting with the Planning Inspectorate and Highways England once we have our Report and the data we need.

The Secretary of State is due to announce the preferred route in August; we have until then to do everything we can to help him make the right decision.

We plan to have a meeting with the Secretary of State well before that date.