

Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh

Engagement: Final Report



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Introduction

This report considers responses following the engagement exercise undertaken by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to consider public opinion on a number of potential options to close the Birmingham Road within Stoneleigh village.

The consultation allowed a range of stakeholders in the Stoneleigh and Ashow parish area to comment on the potential Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh scheme. The scheme aims to close the Birmingham Road at one end to reduce the volume of through traffic within the village.

Stoneleigh is a village close to Kenilworth, Leamington Spa and Warwick and less than four miles from the centre of Coventry.

The signed route to through traffic is to use the B4115 and B4113 to avoid the use of the Birmingham Road. However, this is regularly ignored with the route along Birmingham Road being used to reduce journey distances.

The level of usage of Birmingham Road has led to concerns from residents within the village such as safety, air quality and congestion.

The issues experienced within Stoneleigh are expected to worsen with the planned housing and employment growth in and around Stoneleigh Park, the University of Warwick, Coventry, Kenilworth and Warwick/Leamington Spa.

The route of the HS2 railway line will cross Stoneleigh and Ashow parish; splitting Stoneleigh Park at the north. HS2 Ltd will have a compound close to Stoneleigh for the duration of the construction work. The planned HS2 Ltd HGV route is along the B4115 each day to/from the construction compound.

As a result of these concerns expressed by the local residents, Parish Council and the local County Councillor, Warwickshire County Council undertook the engagement exercise to ascertain whether there was a clear desire within the local area to alter the existing function of the Birmingham Road.

Engagement Exercise methodology

The engagement exercise was held between the 01st October 2018 and the 9th November 2018 and was open to stakeholders with addresses within the Stoneleigh and Ashow Parish Area. A public event was held in Stoneleigh village hall on the afternoon and evening of 10th October 2018 to provide residents of the local area with an opportunity to discuss the scheme with County Council officers.

The engagement exercise consisted of a voting slip which had four options to choose from. These are summarised below:

- Option A- Do nothing- Birmingham Road will remain as it is.
- Option B- The closure of Birmingham Road at its junction with the B4115 Ashow Road.
- Option C- Closure of Birmingham Road at its junction with the B4113 Coventry Road.
- Option D- Alternative suggestions and comments.

A number of methods were available for responding to the engagement exercise:

- An online version of the voting slip was available, which respondents could complete on their computer, tablet, or mobile device
- A paper version of the voting slip was sent to addresses within Stoneleigh and Ashow parish to be returned via post to Warwickshire County Council or handed in person to staff at the public engagement event on the 10th October 2018
- Responses via email and telephone were also received.

Summary of results

A total number of 154 responses were received to the engagement exercise. A breakdown of the number of responses received through each channel is as follows:

- 88 respondents sent the slip to Warwickshire County Council via post
- 33 respondents completed the online survey
- 33 respondents handed the slip in person to WCC staff at the engagement event

Following the exercise the responses were analysed by WCC staff to ensure there were no duplicates or errors in the responses. Chart 1 below shows a summary of the results for the total responses.

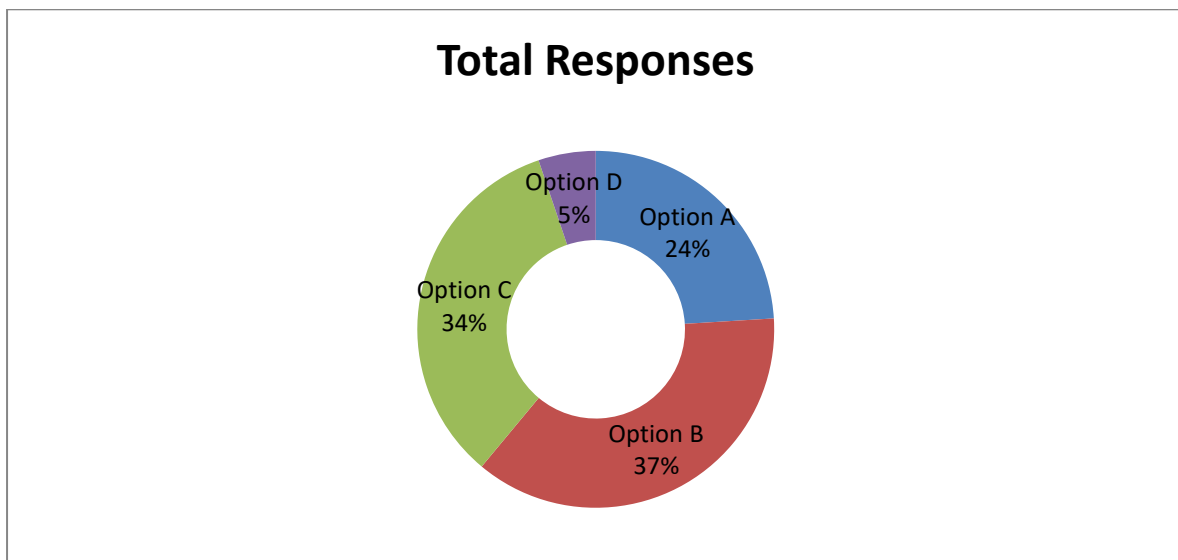


Chart 1: Summary of option results for total responses received.

As can be seen from the above chart there appears to be a desire within the village to investigate an alteration to the existing Birmingham Road function. 76% of respondents chose in favour of doing something as opposed to 24% who voted in favour of the Birmingham Road remaining as it is currently.

From Chart 1 above, it can be seen that there is not a clear consensus towards an option to develop into a scheme. There is a clear divide in opinion between the two closure points with 37% in favour of closing Birmingham Road at its junction with the B4115 Ashow Road and 34% in favour of closing Birmingham Road at its junction with the B4113 Coventry Road.

Within the responses 5% of respondents voted in favour of an alternative solution to the closure of Birmingham Road. Common themes within these responses were the construction of a bypass of the village near to the proposed High Speed Two (HS2) route leaving the Birmingham Road as it is currently. The analysis identified another common theme which included the construction of traffic calming features along the Birmingham Road. Traffic calming features are typically used in locations which suffer from a high number of Personal injury collisions (PICs) caused as a result of excess speed. The Birmingham Road has a low PIC history which would not support the usage of traffic calming features.

Conclusion

Based on the results of this engagement exercise, WCC will not be progressing with a scheme on the Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh at this time due to a lack of clear consensus towards a particular option which would need to be demonstrated in order to support a bid for funding.

WCC will however continue to work with HS2 Ltd to ensure the impact of HS2 activities in the Stoneleigh and Ashow area is minimised where possible and to explore the opportunities to deliver a bypass of Stoneleigh village as a result of infrastructure changes in the area implemented by HS2 Ltd. Delivery of a bypass of Stoneleigh village would significantly reduce the flow of traffic along Birmingham Road and address local concerns regarding the volume of traffic using it .