

1993 Plans for Chideock and Morcombelake Bypass

The National Trust opposed the Morcombelake section owing partly to instability of the geology on the south side of the existing road. It did not oppose the Chideock route to the north. The bypass was approved and went to statute. It was cancelled along with several other bypass projects in November 1996 for economic reasons and it was revoked by Act of Parliament in 1999. However the Chideock section remained a possibility and in 2001 was the subject of a series of consultations seminars, invited Chideock attendees apparently being Cllr Murray who was opposed to the bypass, and Cllr. Geraighty. The route proposed by the Chideock Bypass Working Group (CBWG) is based on the route to the north, not taking in the Morcombelake section. "The proposed route will go north of the village of Chideock, relieving congestion and enabling people to enjoy walking in the village where 54 old stone buildings are listed." (The Independent 1st May 1994) See also chideockbypass.co.uk/library/Chideock Bypass Reports: Public Enquiry Statement 1994; Public Enquiry Statement 1994; Report to the Trunk Roads review 1997; Route Management Strategy Report 2

27th May 2016

A35 public meeting with Oliver Letwin and Highways England (HE) and about 70 members of the public. After a show of hands for those wanting a bypass – again almost every hand went up – Oliver Letwin said he would back this if a consensus on the route were reached.

28th June 2016

CPC monthly meeting, Democratic period - members of the public asked for CPC's proposals in regard to the immediate and long term possibilities. As per the recommendation of the Chideock Parish Council "A35 working group" RESOLVED that CPC's policy is to take forward 2 objectives:

"a. Introduction of a low emission zone in Chideock.

b. Instigation of a Safety Audit to identify measures to improve Health and Safety in the village by dealing with traffic and traffic impact on property and people."

July 2016

CPC reported its "policies and priorities" in Chideock News.

22nd July 2016

PC meeting with Oliver Letwin. Low emissions zone "won't be an easy process, it is technically feasible, won't have any effect on the volume of non-HGV traffic, will require primary legislation; won't cover foreign vehicles. Issues: farm vehicles and HGVs making local deliveries.

27th September 2016

CPC monthly meeting. After discussion agreed that a Chideock A35 Working Group should be formed within the village, which Clerk will advertise this and ask for volunteers.

November 2016

Chideock News: "Councillors welcomed the suggestion and said they would support such a group if it was formed." Those interested would contact the clerk to the CPC.

31st January 2017

CPC monthly meeting: "members of the A35 Working Group (CBWG) gave a report on progress and a copy of the draft questionnaire which they intend to take to every resident in the parish." The group's chosen route was based on the original Chideock section of the bypass proposed in 1994. This was because the route had been designed by consulting engineers, it was the route on which the Public Enquiry was based. It was feasible, more economic than a longer route and work had already been done on service diversion. In fact the route is still visible, marked by the electricity pylons. Land had been purchased by Highways England (then Highways Agency). (Land has since been sold back. There is no legal obligation for the sell back of compulsorily purchased land and no records can be found of when this sell back took place.)

2nd February 2017

CPC quarterly meeting with Highways England (HE) From notes of meeting, cost of Low Emissions Zone (LEZ) study would be £40-45000. There is some doubt that a study would find that LEZ justified.

28th February 2017

CPC meeting minutes: CPC agreed to consult DAPTC on working group's request for funding of printing the survey questionnaire.

14th March 2017

Letters published on website and in April Chideock News against the survey route for a bypass seemed to say that the original bypass plans were cancelled because they were based on unstable ground. See top of page.

28th March 2017

Chideock Parish Council meeting minutes: RESOLVED

1. CPC will not take a position for or against proposals for an A35 Chideock Bypass until

a. A fully detailed route is established and

b. There is consensus from the residents of Chideock Parish to this route

2. In view of the above CPC will not make any contribution towards costs incurred by any pro or anti bypass group in the parish.

April 2017

CBWG funded and carried out survey. [See results](#).

4th April 2017

Results of survey posted on Chideock website. 80% in favour bypass with 56% preference for original route with cut and cover under North Road. Returns 37%

which is comparable with 2017 Marshwood Vale WDDC county council elections turnout 40.84%.

22nd May 2017

“Member of the A35 Bypass Working Group gave a progress update. CPC was asked if they would now support moves for a bypass. Cllr Carey stated that the PC position had not altered from 28.6.2016 and reiterated their two objectives.

16th June 2017

A35 Working Group presented results of survey to Oliver Letwin. Oliver Letwin to request the CPC to hold a Parish Poll arranged by WDDC.

26th June 2017

CBWG attended CPC meeting. CPC would not commit now to Parish Poll, but they would have a private meeting. Result of their discussion would be given out at July CPC meeting.

CBWG decided to exercise its right to call a Parish Meeting so that the debate could be open.

24th July 2017

The Parish meeting was attended by some 90 people. No member of the Parish Council chose to attend. Derek Maxwell was elected as Chair. The meeting voted for two questions to be put forward for the parish poll::

1. Do you support the construction of a new A35 trunk road Chideock bypass which does not pass through any part of the parish of Chideock.
2. Do you support that the A35 from Dorchester to Honiton be detrunked and therefore designated a scenic route.

17th August 2017

The results of the parish poll were published on the Chideock and Seatown website with a commentary by Alan Colville, originator of question 1.

Question 1: Yes 155. No 34

Question 2. Yes 104 No 71

1st September 2017

September Chideock News, Parish Council News section. “The cost of the Parish Poll which took place on 17 August must be borne by the parish council.....£1000..... This could lead to an increase in precept which could in turn lead to an increase in council tax for residents of Chideock parish.....Full resurfacing of the A35 is scheduled for next year..... The Parish Council continues its agreed policy focussing on safety improvements through the village that are considered to be achievable in the short and medium term.”

2nd September 2017

Letter and seven appendices of evidence to support the case for a bypass for Chideock sent to Highways England, the Minister for Transport, DEFRA, Sir Oliver Letwin, DCC Cllr. Daryl Turner and DDC Cllr. Simon Christopher,

requesting its inclusion in the Highways England Strategic network initial report for 2020-2025

12th September 2017

CPC Quarterly meeting of **12th May 2017** with Highways England notes finally published **15th September 2015**

(CPC)“Is there any doubt that illegal emissions in Chideock can only be reduced by lowering traffic volumes?.....(HE)Yes but only if volumes of all types off traffic are reduced as HGV traffic is only a small proportion of the total traffic.”

(CPC) “What can be done to re-route HGVs...container lorries using the A35 through Chideock? (HE)Very little can be done as it is a trunk road.”

21st September 2017 chideockbypass.co.uk – website goes live.

25th September 2017

CBWG received reply to our evidence letter from Nick Harris, Operations Executive Director, Highways England, stating that our package of evidence will be “considered alongside the findings from our recently updated Routes Strategy and strategic studies. From this we will set out the identified issues and suggested investment priorities for the whole of the strategic road network.”

25th September 2017

Chideock Parish Council meeting.CBWG nominated Tony Peacock to be a member of the CPC A35 Working Group. “The suggestion was welcomed by Cllr. Hunt.” (Chair of the meeting)

October 2017

CPC Quarterly meeting of **18th August 2017** with Highways England notes published.

13th October 2017

Petitions: UK Government and Parliament published our petition: “Construct a bypass around Chideock, Dorset to relieve traffic problems”.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/202521>

31st October 2017

Chideock Parish Council Meeting Resolution made on 25th September 2017 to form a CPC A35 Advisory group rescinded. “The CPC A35 working group continues o meeting informally as required. Individual Councillors take lead responsibility for particular action areas.” (See CPC minutes, 31.10.18. on community website)

6th November 2017 pn c

Chideock Bypass Working Group published a report on the Proposed Low Emission Zone for Chideock, a research paper and conclusions by Tony Peacock which systematically exposes the weaknesses of the case for a low emissions zone in Chideock, without a bypass.

10th November 2017

CPC Quarterly meeting with HE. "RM spoke about the CPC A35 Working Group and how it plans to take matters forward, particularly by community engagement."

17th November 2017

Chideock Parish Council held a meeting with Sir Oliver Letwin MP at Chideock Village Hall. "Sir Oliver had called for a discussion with councillors in follow-up to his commitment to pursue the question of a bypass outside of the Chideock parish boundary (and hence possibly through neighbouring parishes) with neighbouring Parish Councils." Notes of the meeting have been published at the request of CBWG. The Parish Council again stressed their "neutrality" and the active pursuit of "mitigating measures, particularly the declaration of a low emissions zone.... and Average Speed Cameras."..... "Sir Oliver agreed that he would further pursue these matters with Highways England."

8th January 2018

Publication of 2017 South West Peninsular Road Strategy document has no reference to Chideock. Response for RIS2 has 8 week deadline.

30th January 2018 Chideock Parish Council Meeting. The council reported that it was submitting a response to Highways England's request for public consultation on RIS2. This to be published on community website. The PC also reported it is considering "interaction" with other Pcs along the A35.

1st February 2018 CBWG's response to RIS2 submitted. Associated questionnaire also completed and sent.

1st February 2018 Tony Peacock discussed on phone some aspects of A35 with Andy Roberts. Whilst willing to keep in touch with group he affirmed that bypass matters are not in his remit. He said we have done all we can in the RIS2 proposal.

7th February 2018 Publication on www.chideockbypass.co.uk of RIS2 submission documents. In due course details of the submission will be circulated to all PCs and Town Councils in Dorset and East Devon.