

WHS Committee On-line Meeting 25 November 2020

- A lady called Anne Carney is the replacement to Sarah Simmonds and she starts on 1st December.
- A303 Development has been approved. Archaeology and preliminary works will begin late spring 2021 and then 2022/2023 main works will start. They anticipate it being a 5 year working plan to 2028 with a further 5 years to downgrade the A303 and ensure the tunnel works effectively. Not everyone on the call was in favour of this.
- There is a feel from some that this could downgrade Avebury and Stonehenge from WHS
- Jane Davies queried whether there was any spend available to make the crossing at Silbury Hill safer. She was told that Highways England (HE) were not responsible for that but Wiltshire Council (WC) are. This view was supported by Henry Oliver and Melanie Barge both saying some funding should be made available for Avebury. Jane is going to follow this up.
- Legacy Project - ARUP have delivered the report / recommendations following the workshops last year. Unfortunately due to Covid nothing has been followed up. Sarah Askham is pulling together a working group to follow up on the idea's that came out of that report. I have already expressed an interest in being part of the group.
- The Transition Project is being set up which will review options on how to protect WHS, I apologise, I am not entirely sure what this is for – I believe it is to ensure that both Avebury and Stonehenge are looked after whilst all the A303 work is going on. There is some fund raising happening which will continue through to Apr 2022. It's being deeply discussed by National Trust (NT) English Heritage (EH) HE and other WHP
- The Ridgeway Report was sent out by Sarah (neither me nor Stephen Thomas received this) I have asked for a copy. It looks like the deadline for this has been extended to next week. Unfortunately without the report I am unable to comment on this at the moment. Everyone else seemed to have come to an agreement about the work so I do not feel there is any need to delay things to comment.
- Great West Way is deemed a huge success by all and Devizes in particular seems to be gaining tourism through it.
- North Wessex Downs There are some working groups through ELMS to fund raise for Landscape Strategy and also conservation area's on farm land. Only Avebury seems to be part of this at the moment (unless I am mistaken)