

BECKHAMPTON

Calming traffic, improving a village

What are the issues?

- The A4 and the roundabout was designed when there was no M4: it's now a much bigger road and roundabout than is needed.
- There are no safe crossing points on all 4 exits from the roundabout making it dangerous for;
 - Local children to cross the road for school buses
 - Locals, especially the elderly, from the south of the A4 and NW of the A4361 to meet at the local public house
 - Local horses from the stables to safely cross the A4 West of the roundabout
 - Tourists to visit and explore. Parking for the Waggon and Horses South of the A4 means a particularly dangerous crossing to the public house
- The scale and speed of the road isn't in keeping with a World Heritage Site that attracts tens of thousands of visitors.
- Most other villages on the A4 have a speed limit. But Wiltshire won't put speed limits onto a road that is wide and hence fast because they would be ignored
- So the expert recommendation is to slow the speed naturally by narrowing the road through the village, extending splitter islands from the roundabout and putting in hedges / shrubs on the roundabout to naturally slow speeds and enable speed limits later if necessary.

What have we done so far?

- Villagers in Beckhampton (as have West Kennett) have been lobbying for many years for road changes and reduced speeds.
- This became a recommendation in the Parish Traffic Plan and the WHS transport strategy. The plans also include crossing points, extended splitter islands off the roundabout and significant narrowing of the road to culminate in lower natural speeds.
- Over the last two years, the Avebury Transport Group through the Parish Council persuaded the Marlborough Area Board to commit a significant sum to the design work that would be needed before this project could get funding and go ahead.
- The APC also pledged part funding, as did residents through fundraising in Beckhampton. We still need to raise more in order to complete this design phase but we are very grateful for the funding received so far
- The initial stage of the consultants' work came up with plans (see [left])

Next steps

- We need to complete the fund raising to complete the design stage of the Beckhampton component of the Avebury and WHS transport plans
- The completion of the design package does not guarantee the work will get done (as significant funding will evidently be needed) but it is a pre-requisite for the work to be considered
- The works in Beckhampton need to be in keeping and in concert with those in Avebury and West Kennett to ensure the entire WHS environment is improved in a co-ordinated manner
- The goal of these works is to improve the environment of our Hamlet, the Parish and the entire WHS so that this region is seen as it should be, a place of great history and tranquillity,

Any other suggestions or views would be welcome.