

# **Stonehenge World Heritage Site**

## **Position Statement of Salisbury District Council**

### **1. Strategic Overview**

Salisbury District Council is committed to working with all parties to find a lasting and fitting solution to the question of Stonehenge and a new visitor centre. The Council considers the existing situation an unacceptable embarrassment as an international visitor destination, marooned between two busy roads and served by a visitor centre of extremely poor quality.

Whilst disappointed by the Governments decision not to implement the road improvements associated with the previous scheme, that included the road tunnel and Winterbourne Stoke Bypass, the Council will engage positively at all levels of the Stonehenge Project, to try and deliver the following strategic objectives:

- A solution that restores Stonehenge to a respectful setting within the World Heritage Site..
- To safeguard the long term future of the World Heritage Site.
- Improve the visitor experience to the stones by upgrading and relocating the existing Visitor centre, possibly to the West of the stones.
- In the short term, but before the use of the visitor centre commences, to:
  - (i) Improve the road network by the closure and removal of the A344, the provision of the Winterbourne Stoke Bypass, the provision of the fly-over at Countess Roundabout and improvements to Longbarrow Roundabout and the junction at Airmans Corner.
  - (ii) To secure dualling of the A303 from King Barrow Ridge to the Winterbourne Stoke Bypass, with appropriate measures to negate any environmental impact on the Stones and their setting.”
- To maximise the potential economic benefits for local communities, which are currently unrealised, by encouraging linked and extended visits in South Wiltshire.
- Improving access to Stonehenge and South Wiltshire by alternative sustainable means of transport that reduce reliance on the motor car.

## **2. The Stonehenge World Heritage Site Management Plan**

The Council continue to support the overarching objectives contained in the Stonehenge W H S Management Plan, adopted by this council as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the adopted Salisbury District Local Plan and will engage positively at all levels of the Stonehenge project to deliver:

- The creation of a larger area of restored open grassland, which will improve the setting of Stonehenge and other monuments
- A comprehensive treatment of important road links within the WHS in order to reduce traffic movements and congestion, improve safety and enhance the historic environment.
- The removal of the existing visitor facilities and parking and the creation of a new world-class centre.
- The improvement of site interpretation, to enhance visitors' enjoyment of the World Heritage Site as a whole.
- More public footpaths and the provision of alternative means of public and managed open access to Stonehenge and the World Heritage Site as a whole.
- The improvement of nature conservation values such as the creation, maintenance and conservation of a flower rich chalk grassland
- The continued conservation and improvement of the archaeological sites within the World Heritage Site and the promotion of an associated archaeological research programme.
- The spreading of the economic benefits of sustainable tourism at Stonehenge to the wider locality