

Day Nine

Mike Hawkins

Cllr Hawkins read from a statement. His main points were:

Westbury Town Council voted not to oppose the Eastern route.

The health and wellbeing of residents living along the present route of the A350 outweighs environmental considerations.

The claim that bypass would ruin view of White Horse is unfounded.

Most opponents of the scheme are from outside Westbury.

Many members of the A350 corridor alliance appear to favour a Western route, yet the literature of the group indicates complete opposition to all 'road improvements' from the M4 to the South Coast.

The present scheme offers the only realistic chance of relieving Westbury's traffic problems.

Cross Examination

Is it not the case that WTC had a preference for a W route for many years?

-Not since involvement in council began in 2003

No personal experience of situation before 2003?

-No

When did WTC first vote to support E route?

-March 2007

-WTC did not oppose E route in 2005

Did they vote?

-To the best of my knowledge, yes

-Voted in support of a E route

To the best of your knowledge, have the people of Westbury ever been offered an alternative option, in the form of a non-road build option?

-Not to my knowledge

Would you agree that one of the effects of WCC adopting the E route as a preference has been to divide the community?

-Some oppose either route

-Vast majority don't care which site – pro-bypass, but not in either camp

People of WSB never been offered an alternative to a bypass?

-Not to my knowledge.

WHA123. Newspaper transcript. 18/01/07 White Horse News. Meeting between Fleur de Rhe-Philippe and WTC. Presumably meeting took place before 18/01?

-Agreed

Before WTC voted whether to support scheme?

-Agreed

Phillipe told councillors that if they did not approve application, town could be waiting a very long time for a bypass. Rhe-Philippe said an E route only plausible route. No question of any other route or bypass. What influence did these statements have on members of the WTC?

-No influence on me

-Also told to vote for unitary authority, voted against

-WTC do not accept instructions

Statement that if councillors did not vote in favour, they might wait a very long time had no influence?

-No influence

Rhe-Philippe also threatened a withdrawal of funding for town centre?

-No influence

Speaking for yourself or for WTC?

-Myself

Warminster journal article. Reporting same meeting. Warnings had no influence?

-Govt had provided funding for other places like Semington, govt would fund other route.

Fact that the Yarnbrook/West Ashton scheme withdrawn had no effect?

-No

Half a dozen members had 'prejudicial interests'. How many councillors in WSB?

-16

Up to 6 barred from voting. How is a prejudicial interest defined?

-A prejudicial interest is a conflict of interest where any thinking person would believe that a Cllr or member of a Cllr's family would benefit personally from a measure adopted by the council.

Were 6 Cllrs predominantly from the E of the town?

-Almost all lived on E of town, or had property or relatives on E of town.

Any Cllrs from W of town not permitted?

-Cllr Hulin

-Cllr Bray – owned land from Heywood.

-Cllr Hawker lives Westbury Leigh

-Balanced number living W, E and TC.