

## The preferred route

Following an analysis of the work done to date as well as your feedback, we will proceed with developing Option 1, with the key concerns raised at consultation being further considered in the next stages of the scheme design and development.

It is necessary to close the West Street and the Fish Inn Pub entry/exit junctions with the A31 to enable the scheme to deliver the required safety benefits. This will also reduce the frequency of vehicle movements at this junction, which will enable the petrol station to remain open.

The provision of this option will improve safety and journey times on the A31; and by having an additional lane on the A31 we will provide greater network resilience for future use.

## What happens next

We will commence the design stages and the scheme will be taken through the necessary planning and statutory procedures. Surveys are currently being undertaken to assess the lifespan of the bridges on the A31 and the results are expected in November 2017. The outcome may determine whether the scheme should include bridge replacements that may impact on statutory requirements to gain consent for the scheme.

We will continue to work closely with our stakeholders, including with the local authorities to identify improvements within Ringwood Town Centre, which may be delivered in conjunction with the A31 scheme.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.



# A31 Ringwood improvement scheme

## More information

A copy of the full public consultation report and further information is available at:

**[www.highways.gov.uk/a31ringwood](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a31ringwood)**

## Contact us

If you have any queries, please contact our customer contact centre:

- **0300 123 5000**
- **[A31Ringwood@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A31Ringwood@highwaysengland.co.uk)**



## Public consultation

Between June and August 2017 we held a non-statutory public consultation to gather feedback on our proposed plans to improve the A31 at Ringwood.

We put forward an option (Option 1) which included the following:

- Increase the width of the A31 from two lanes to three lanes on the westbound carriageway between the Ringwood and Verwood junctions (approximately 1km)
- Increase the width of the two bridges over the River Avon and Bickerley Millstream to accommodate the westbound third lane
- The West Street junction with the A31 is closed to motorised vehicles
- The Fish Inn Pub entry/exit to the A31 is closed to motorised vehicles
- The Petrol Filling Station remains open
- The existing cycle/foot path adjacent to the A31 will be improved
- Collaborate with Ringwood Town Council to assist delivery of the local Town Access Plan

We also asked for comments and views on the different elements of this proposal and sought confirmation that justification for rejecting the two other options (Options 2 and 3) was understood.

We received requests during the consultation for a speed limit change. This will not be required for this project due to the improved traffic flow and safety benefits once the scheme is delivered.

## Scheme objectives

- **Improve safety** along the A31, particularly at the junction with West Street
- **Reduce congestion and improve journey times** on the A31 westbound between the Ringwood junction and the Verwood junction
- **Improve facilities** for cyclists, pedestrians and other non-motorised users adjacent to the A31 and in Ringwood Town Centre

## Responses to public consultation

448 respondents completed the questionnaire:

- 91% agreed there was a need to improve the A31 at Ringwood
- 70% agreed with the proposed Option 1 presented at consultation
- 75% understood the justification for Options 2 and 3 being rejected

Some of the key concerns with the proposal included:

- The closure of West Street
- The speed limit being too high on the A31
- Access to and from the petrol station on the A31 at Ringwood

