

## What has happened since the last Exhibition?

At last year's exhibition we presented information on the routes known as the Valley Route and the Hillside Route. As well as asking for peoples opinions at the exhibition we also sent out 3600 leaflets to residents in and around Crediton which contained information on the options and asked for comments and a preference for one of the routes.

When we had collated all of the responses from the leaflets and the exhibition a report was produced that was presented to the Devon County Council 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008 meeting of the Executive (now called the Cabinet).

# The Results

We received 529 returns of the pre paid leaflet and the preferences were:

316 (60%) for the Hillside Route

191 (36%) for the Valley Route

20 (4%) were 'don't knows'

Concerns over the Hillside Route were raised by the hauliers on Lords Meadow Industrial Estate and 68 individual returns with issues relating to the steep gradients of the Hillside alignment with the associated emissions / pollution and the proposed cross roads with Common Marsh Lane and Marsh Lane.

**English Heritage** and the **Downes Estate** were concerned about both routes and their impact on the heritage interest of grade II\* listed Downes House, its associated historic landscape and also about the severance of the Estate.

The **Environment Agency** has clearly indicated that they would strongly oppose the Valley Route Option as it occupied part of the River Creedy flood plain and the road would flood.

The **Town Council** in October 2008 voted unanimously in favour of the Hillside Route.

**Mid Devon District Council** did not respond directly to the exhibition, but, as part of the Mid Devon Local Framework, the preferred options for Crediton supported a Hillside Route to the west of Wellparks.

**Crediton Traffic Action Group** met in September 2008 and a majority voted in favour of the Valley Route.

## The Conclusion

The conclusion to this was that consideration of public preference, together with responses from the Town Council, Environment Agency, English Heritage and Downes Estate, supported a Hillside Route. Engineering, Environmental and cost assessments also favour the Hillside Route. In particular, it should be noted that the Valley Route would be likely to provoke statutory objections from the Environment Agency and English Heritage.

## The resolutions of the Executive on 25th November 2008 after reviewing this information were:-

That the Hillside Route be approved in principle.

Further consideration be given to the LDF variation of the Hillside Route. i.e. routes to the west of the summit.

That the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Culture be asked to examine those proposed route variations and report back to a future meeting of this Executive.

That a further study be undertaken to assess the impact of this development on the road network and traffic levels in the surrounding area.

The Executive committee that met in February 2009 reviewed the information on the LDF, Hillside and Western Routes and resolved that:

(a) the Western Route be approved as the basis of a planning application and the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Culture be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Member for the Environment and the local County Councillor, to make any minor amendments to the scheme details, as necessary;

(b) approval be given to the acquisition of the land either by negotiation or compulsory purchase;

(c) a further Public Exhibition relating to the revised proposal be held in Crediton prior to the submission of a planning application.

## Further examination of a Hillside Route

Subsequent to this DCC engineers have investigated the Hillside Route, the LDF proposal which was a variation of the Hillside Route and also looked for a viable alternative.

These conclusions were presented to the Executive on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009 and are explained further on the next panels. The full report and minutes of the Executive meetings, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009, meeting can be found at:-

[Http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/decision\\_making/cma/index\\_exc.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/decision_making/cma/index_exc.htm)