

ROLLRIGHT TRUST: A PETITION TO OXFORDSHIRE AND WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING AT THE ROLLRIGHT STONES.

This petition is to ask this Council to work with Warwickshire to adopt traffic calming measures at The Rollright Stones and to rule out using or developing the road they straddle as a Chipping Norton bypass.

The Stones are in state care, among the nation's top 450 heritage sites. The road follows the Oxfordshire Warwickshire boundary, passing within 7 metres of the King's Men stone circle in Oxfordshire, and 30 metres of the King Stone in Warwickshire. At only 5 metres wide, there is barely room for two HGVs to pass. Warwickshire is the highways authority for the section at the Stones; Oxfordshire for the section to the west.

There are long-standing and growing concerns about traffic levels and speed, particularly given increasing visitor numbers including primary schools. Insufficient parking provision causes significant congestion. The junctions immediately to the west are notoriously dangerous.

There have been recurrent suggestions to upgrade the road to relieve Chipping Norton, most recently at your meeting on November 5th. This is despite formal options appraisals repeatedly rejecting it as unrealistic.

Even if a 'bypass' was not actively promoted, closing Chipping Norton to HGVs would risk increasing HGV traffic here.

There is also much concern about a current minerals application which would increase HGV traffic.

Our petition states

‘Whilst we understand the difficult HGV traffic and air quality issues in Chipping Norton, the Rollright Road is entirely unfit for HGV traffic, or for upgrading to a full trunk road....

‘..The Local Transport Plan is committed to *“protecting our environmental and heritage assets, and supporting the health and wellbeing of residents.”*

‘...Rather than encouraging more HGV traffic passing through the Stones – whether directly or inadvertently – it should be actively discouraged....’

and it requests that

‘...Our local Councils act positively with strategic foresight to protect residents and the environment.’

The total number of signatories was almost **32,000**.

All **124** UK postcode areas are represented, from **11** signatories in Shetland to over **3,000** in Oxfordshire.

Over **9,700** are from the six adjacent postcode Areas.

1,600 are from the four immediately adjacent Districts (like Chipping Norton).

In the light of this massive support, we request you commit your council to actively help reduce not increase traffic at the Rollright Stones; and in the next few months to meet with the Rollright Trust, Warwickshire and the two parish councils concerned to plan the way forward. The steps needed are to:

- review traffic calming options;
- develop a shortlist of measures, costs and potential sources of funding;
- prepare a traffic calming action plan; and
- implement it.