

TINTERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Thank you to all of you who participated in consultation about the 2019 A466 road closure options, either by e-mail, direct discussion with Community Councillors or expressing your views at the special meeting of the Community Council on 4th September.

A consensus has been reached that Option1 (starting the work as soon as possible, in Spring 2019, for completion as soon as possible and by May 2019 at the latest) should be recommended to Monmouthshire CC. This option was supported by a majority of businesses and residents who responded to the consultation and unanimously by those attending the meeting. The major influencing factor on Councillors in deciding which option to recommend to the County Council was the need to maintain access for the greatest part of the tourist season as possible. A further factor raised frequently by the respondents was the road safety issues in using the diversion routes, especially when the early evenings are dark.

The consultation also highlighted a number of other issues which the Community Council has sought assurance from Monmouthshire CC that they will address prior to the road closure:-

1. That measures will be put in place, including extended working hours and weekend working, to shorten the length of time that the road needs to be closed.
2. That every effort will be made to have the road at least partially open for the Easter weekend, even with temporary traffic lights.
3. That there will be advance planning about the diversion routes, with improved, well positioned directional signage including separate signs in Welsh and English and advice that all the businesses in Tintern and the Abbey remain open for visitors.
4. That the diversion routes will be repaired and maintained to a reasonable and safe standard prior to the closure of the A466. Where possible one way systems and speed restrictions will be introduced on the diversion routes. Satnav. companies will be advised about the suitability of the alternative routes and the closures co-ordinated with other projects e.g. by the utility companies and Gloucestershire CC.
5. That communication with local businesses and residents will be made a priority. Specifically, 28 days in advance of commencement, Monmouthshire CC will issue a public statement, preferably via a public meeting and presentation about the proposed works and mitigation measures, followed by weekly progress reports during the course of the work.
6. That businesses adversely affected by the closure of the A466 will be compensated at least by being afforded a business rates "holiday" for the duration of the closure.

Representatives of Monmouthshire CC have agreed to attend the next meeting of the Community Council on 24th September to answer questions from Councillors. Members of the public are welcome to come to listen to the discussion but cannot take part in it.

It is hoped that we will be able to host a public meeting with County Council representatives at a later date where you will be able to question them directly.