

STOP! ALLIANCE

BRIEFING on HGV parking

The plans for Unit 4 include parking for Tesco's own Lorries and also short-term parking for suppliers' Lorries. What they do not include is any form of longer term parking for suppliers who arrive before their time slots or for drivers to park up after their delivery. Apparently it is common practice for drivers to take their statutory rest period after completing a delivery, using local lorry parks, if available, or lay-bys.

A STOP! Survey in March showed that on the A303 there are 30 lay-bys from the end of the M3 to Stonehenge (total in both directions) providing just 100 HGV parking slots and the majority of these are already occupied by HGVs in the evenings. On the evening of the survey, Countess Service station near Amesbury had 10 HGVs tightly packed in and at Solstice Park there were 36 HGVs parked around the incomplete development. There is no secure parking on the A303 with facilities for washing or eating, yet if plans for a distribution centre at Solstice Park are also approved then there could be an additional 3,000 HGVs using the A303 every 24 hours.

So where will all the Lorries park if all the lay-bys are full and there are no lorry parks? A letter from a resident at Fradley, a village near Lichfield, where TVBC councillors visited in January, who recently wrote to the Andover Advertiser provides a clue:

"No lorry park has yet been provided, so Lorries parking up overnight in Common Lane have been a major problem. They damage the kerbs and block the progress of car drivers and the school bus, both morning and evening. Under the Road Traffic Act 1998, sections 19 and 22, it is illegal for vehicles of over 7½ tons to park on grass verges, yet the police refuse to do anything about the problem because they know that they would then park on the road.

"The drivers use the hedgerow as a public toilet and even leave toilet rolls behind there for each other. There was even a report from a haulage company to one of our councillors that his drivers were being approached by prostitutes in Wood End Lane, near to Tesco. And all this is happening in what was once our peaceful rural village!"

HGV parking is clearly an issue that needs careful attention by TVBC, please review the information carefully before the 1st September.