

News Release 10 April 06

STONEHENGE VISITOR CENTRE PLANS RESUBMITTED

Salisbury District Council has announced a six-week public consultation exercise following the resubmission of English Heritage's planning application to develop a new visitor centre for Stonehenge.

Once the application is registered a consultation exercise will start from 13 April. The council is writing to all residents living in the northern area of the district, inviting them to submit their views.

This application is identical to the one English Heritage submitted to the council in 2004. Everyone who submitted representations to the council on that application – will have their views considered again for this application.

Salisbury District Council's portfolio holder for Planning and Economic Development, Cllr Margaret Peach, said: "We welcome the decision by English Heritage to re-submit its planning application.

"It is a major planning application for an internationally important site and we hope people that have not already had their say on the scheme, will take this opportunity to do so.

"And let me assure everyone who took the time to respond to the last consultation that their views will still be taken into account as part of this planning process."

The planning application is for a visitor centre alongside Countess Road in Amesbury. In the proposed designs the single-storey centre would be low and curving into the existing landscape. It will have a grass roof and will not be visible from the road. Inside the building includes a series of exhibitions, shops and refectories.

A major part of the scheme is how visitors will be transported from the visitor centre to the stones. It is proposed a land train will take people across the World Heritage site to near the monument. Visitors will then walk to the stones (facilities will be provided for disabled people and the elderly).

Last summer, the council's Planning and Regulatory Panel turned down the planning application and English Heritage lodged an appeal against that decision.



Salisbury District Council



As part of the preparation work for a future appeal hearing it became apparent to the Panel that there were grounds for re-consideration, and asked English Heritage to re-submit its plans.

English Heritage accepted this invitation and the planning application is now being registered.

The planning application will be available for viewing in public offices and also at www.salisbury.gov.uk where people can submit their views on-line.

Public consultation comes to an end on 25 May and it is expected that the planning application will go to the Northern Area Committee for comment and the Planning and Regulatory Panel for decision in the summer.

ENDS 10 April 2006

For more information on the planning process please contact Dave Milton on 01722 434354.

For more information and to arrange interviews please contact the council's press officer, Rachel Baker on 01722 434561.

