

ABNC Newsletter 5th November 2015

Firstly a very warm welcome to all our new supporters. This newsletter is by way of an update on the A27 Arundel Bypass and also an opportunity to give a brief update on other activities which would be at risk if the bypass passed through Binsted.

Since our last enewsletter in July, Highways England have just published their report of the Stakeholders Workshop on the A27 held in July 2015. As you will see from their report, other options to the 2 offline routes are back on the table for consideration and the session was more of a “brainstorm” on options than formulating a policy. The next meeting is anticipated to be in December 2015 although this has yet to be confirmed.

We have attached a summary of the report; [click here for the ABNC Blog version](#), at the foot of which you will find a link to the full 37-page Highways England Report.

It is encouraging to see that Highways England are engaging to this extent with the local communities to review a number of options to find a way forward.

Highways England have set up a dedicated web page for the A27 improvements. Please click on this link to access it: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a27-arundel-improvement/>

NB there are about 5 sub-page tabs in the Arundel website area to click on so it is like a mini-website in itself, ready to grow. The About one is the most descriptive, the Timetable one, and so on. When you get on to that website you can click a red button to subscribe to receive updates to the following A27 topics:

- A27 Arundel Improvement
- A27, Fitzalan Arundel Joint Replacement and Bearing Painting
- A27 Fontwell lighting renewal work
- A27 Chichester Improvement
- Worthing and Lancing Improvement
- A27 Kingsham Bridge Construction

For some of these you have to look under London & South East.

ABNC Website: www.arundelbypass.co.uk - hopefully you will have all visited our new website – please send us your comments. Please also visit our Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/arundelbypass) and click on “Like” as a way of registering your support. You will then be sent updates when we publish new blogs, reports etc. Please ask your friends and families to email us from the website and to “Like” our Facebook page – we’re targeting at least 500 “Likes” by Christmas!

Other News from the Binsted countryside we are campaigning to save

Strawberry Fair - Glorious weather helped to make this year’s Fair one of the most successful in its [28 – is this correct?] year history. It made £6443.57 of which 50% will go to Friends of Binsted Church, 25% to the Sussex Wildlife Trust and 25% to St Richard’s Hospital. The ABNC stand attracted considerable attention and support from visitors. A reporter from the Littlehampton Gazette visited the show - a copy of his article including an interview with Emma is attached.[need to attach]

The Fair organisers would like to thank you for your support in making it so successful and look forward to welcoming you to next year's event.

Binsted Dog Show – unfortunately this event took place in “biblical” rain. The Tristram family kindly offered the use of their barn and Nursery polytunnel so that the event could take place under cover. Despite the weather, around 50 people and their dogs turned up and the proceeds went to Friends of Binsted Church and to [xxxx]Trust.

The organisers thank everyone for their support despite the weather – hopefully next year's event will be in more clement conditions!

MAVES - Jackie Thompson, MAVES professional consultant, has nearly completed Habitat Phase 1 surveys and has started NVC surveys. Professional surveyors have conducted initial botanical surveys – whorl grass (which is not generally seen on the Sussex sea plain) and cornflowers are some of the more unusual finds. Brighton University has been assisting with small mammal surveys eg harvest mice, water voles etc and Ian Powell, a member of SWT and a licensed dormouse handler has been working closely with MAVES on dormouse monitoring. Please be aware that as dormice are an endangered species and protected by UK & EU legislation, only LICENSED HANDLERS are allowed to monitor and handle them

MAVES is delighted to announce that 2 students (Sussex and Brighton universities) will be conducting field studies in the MAVES area as part of their final year work.

MAVES is very keen for the local enthusiasts and hobbyists in wildlife eg birds, flowers, fungi etc to get involved. Please be aware that all monitoring and recording must be done from the public footpaths and bridleways ONLY. Please contact MAVES via their website if you would like to become involved.

MAVES has extended its aims to include a study of the historical landscape which is closely linked to the ecological landscape. Connie Shirley from Worthing Archaeology Society will be conducting historical map-overlaying as part of her MA degree and Emma Tristram has started a desk-based study of the historical landscape and origins of Binsted Woods.

For more information on MAVES, its work and how you can get involved, please visit their website www.maves.org.uk.

Binsted Arts Festival - A new group, 'Binsted Arts', is planning a weekend of events and artistic celebration for 10th/11th/12th June 2016, with a poetry competition, talks about Binsted by writers Valerie Grove and Luke Jennings, an art exhibition, a walk, an art workshop and a performance by Cotillion, a group who sing traditional Sussex songs interspersed with readings about changes in the countryside. News about the event will soon be on a new website www.binsted.org/binstedarts (please note this website is not yet live).

ABNC would like to thank you for your continuing support and we will continue to keep you all informed as matters progress.

We would like to take this opportunity for your continued support to ABNC. As we have seen from the July Meeting, the views of the residents of Walberton, Binsted and Tortington and the ABNC supporters is making a difference and are being taken seriously by the HE stakeholders.

ABNC Newsletter Editor Julia Plumstead