

Spirit FM

<http://www.spiritfm.net/news/sussex-news/1843375/a27-meeting-packed-to-rafters/>

A27 Meeting Packed To Rafters

7:11am 6th January 2016



Council bosses say they won't take sides over a new northern bypass for Chichester until all the information has been made public.

Around 100 people attended a meeting at county hall last night to talk over the Highways England plans to take traffic off the A27.

So far, West Sussex County Council have remained silent, as a campaign gathers pace amongst those against the proposals to create a faster route between Portsmouth and Eastbourne.

However last night, after pressure from the public, leader Louise Goldsmith said she was disappointed the consultation into the proposals would only last six weeks. She is pushing Highways England to extend it - but did say all information needs to be made public by the roads organisation before they can commit to a plan.

Of those at the meeting last night, Dr Michael Tucker from East Lavant told Spirit FM:

"I just have a feeling that we're not being given the whole truth. They've had long enough. I think extending the consultation is a simple request. Everyone is making the same point - it would be a travesty to put in a northern bypass. The fact that this is being suggested should have been pushed away by the County Council."

A 17-year-old boy even stood up to air his views. He said:

"I know council leaders have seen the map options but at the moment they seem prepared to take our flack and hope it dies down. They do know what's going on and the costs but refuse to enter a dialogue with us."

A spokesman for West Sussex County Council said:

"The County Council is disappointed the consultation promised by Highways England has been delayed until spring.

"However, with the consultation approaching, it is imperative Highways England provides communities and local authorities with the dates and format of the consultation.

"This is so people and businesses most likely to be affected have a clear understanding of how to make their views known.

"The sooner Highways England can provide these details, the sooner local communities and their representatives can plan their responses.

"The County Council will carefully consider the information provided by Highways England when preparing its own response to the consultation."

Another meeting is scheduled for January 28th.