

Letters to the Editor

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More creative solutions than bypasses needed to solve traffic issues

JOHN Boxall's tirade about the Green Party's views on building new bypasses said nothing new and it is due to arguments such as Mr Boxall's that our society is still welded to the ideas of the last century.

By contrast, we are proposing different ideas for this century, because we think we have to wake up to the problems that the next generations are going to face, and start trying to make things better instead of continuing to make them worse.

I assure Mr Boxall that we in the local Green Party are aware of the arguments in favour of a bypass; as local people we are

familiar with the congestion problems on the A27 but we do not feel they have to be solved with bypasses, but rather with more creative solutions. In all parties, politicians are not qualified engineers but take advice from them as well as from scientific and technical experts. There are many reports which prove that new roads fill up and eventually become congested themselves, and so provide only temporary relief: a good example is the M25.

The Campaign for Better Transport's website is a good starting point for more information.

Perhaps it is time to admit that we have to

cut down on car use after all, or to accept the problems that come with continued use.

Mr Boxall's reference to the last Labour government, who decided Arundel's setting was so exceptionally beautiful that a bypass would not be considered, is interesting because it shows that these important decisions are taken, in reality, according to the ideology of the ruling party and do not necessarily reflect the views of local communities. Finally, Mr Boxall may be interested in a local group, South Coast Action for Transport and the Environment, which is working on more environmentally-

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friendly solutions to the congestion at the trouble spots along the road. For example at Arundel the suggestion is for a short length of new road from Crossbush to the Ford roundabout, to alleviate the problem of the narrow road uphill. The Green Party would support some of these ideas, as the 'least worst' options, if combined with other ideas such as greatly improved and incentivised public transport and safe walking and cycling routes.

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