

Letters to the editor

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Ways to improve tailbacks without damaging countryside

I would like to thank Colin Stepney for mentioning the Arundel Bypass Neighbourhood Committee's petition against Arundel Bypass option 5A in his letter about numbers opposing or favouring 5A (27 June). The petition has now topped 3,000.

and want 5A or 'an offline bypass'. There are other ways of improving the tailbacks without damaging the countryside, Ancient Woodland or the National Park. They include the New Single Purple Route put forward by the Arundel A27 Forum. For details of this, see www.arundela27forum.org.uk.

Colin Stepney refers to the 'silent majority' who are 'totally fed up with the 30 minute plus tailbacks at Crossbush'

Another number which ought to be acknowledged is the 4.5 million plus supporters

of the ten NGOs, including CPRE, Friends of the Earth, the Wildlife Trusts, the Woodland Trust and the RSPB, who wrote to Ministers for Transport and the Environment in May opposing Option 5A. They concluded: 'Neither "exceptional circumstances" nor overwhelming "national interest" has been demonstrated as the National Policy Statement requires, and

the scheme would cause severe and irreparable damage to two of our most precious national assets: ancient woodland and the South Downs National Park. We are therefore asking you to order an immediate review of the Highways England scheme at Arundel and its plans for the A27 more broadly.'

The National Park is taking legal action against Highways England's Preferred Route

decision of 11 May because they have not complied with planning policy protecting National Parks, referred to in the above letter. I am taking legal action against Highways England because their 2017 'consultation' was full of incorrect information favouring 5A and was not fair or impartial. As the NGOs' letter put it, 5A 'has been brought forward after an inaccurate and

misleading consultation that did not examine all options, particularly ones that would have minimised environmental harm'.

To find out more about my legal action see www.crowdjustice.com/case/save-arundels-countryside-from-bypass-ruin.

EMMA TRISTRAM
Binsted,
Arundel