

Littlehampton Gazette

Thursday, March 9, 2017

littlehamptongazette.co.uk | 85p (or 68p if you take out a subscription, see page 4)

OUR NHS

Who would
Shining the spotlight on

Arundel bypass under threat?

Campaigners say Arundel bypass is too 'controversial'

Stephen Pickthall and Michael Drummond
news@littlehamptongazette.co.uk

Is the Arundel A27 solution set to follow in the footsteps of the Chichester bypass?

Campaigners raised concerns that plans for a bypass at Arundel are just as questionable as the cancelled Chichester scheme.

Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling said sister plans for Chichester were too 'controversial' but added 'the A27 Arundel bypass should proceed as planned'.

"Arundel people love their countryside," said Kay Wagland, secretary of ArundelSCATE.

"We want to see traffic issues resolved, but not by sacrificing our countryside for an unnecessary and costly dual carriageway," she added.

However, James Stewart, mayor of Arundel, said: "A bypass is needed for Arundel to reduce pollution and allow traffic to move freely."

According to the mayor, the old pink-blue route remains the preferred option of Arundel Town Council.

"It is the shortest route requiring the minimum amount of new road. It does not go through any villages and does not go through ancient woodland," Mr Stewart said.

Steve Ankers, of the South Downs Society, said many of the options are 'unacceptably damaging to the National Park'.

"Their damage to the Park's special qualities include major impact on key views south and looking up the valley towards Arundel," he added.

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In next week's paper



Next round of Gym of the Year 2017

Vote for your favourite gym from the shortlist of ten, chosen by readers, next week

News

Arundel bypass threatened after sister plans scrapped?

Stephen Pickthall and Michael Drummond

Plans for an A27 bypass at Arundel are just as controversial as those for Chichester, campaigners say.

The warning comes after Transport Secretary Chris Grayling scrapped the Chichester plans, blaming 'withdrawal of support by local councils' and 'significant local campaigns'.

Despite this, Mr Grayling said 'the A27 Arundel bypass should proceed as planned'.

But Arundel campaigners have warned the division in the Chichester community is very likely to be felt in Arundel too.

One option ('Pink-Blue') was previously cancelled due to the environmental damage it would cause and another route impacts the village of

Binsted. Both these options cut through parts of the South Downs National Park.

"It's absurd that the Binsted option is still on the table," said Emma Tristram, secretary of the Arundel Bypass Neighbourhood Committee (ABNC).

"The area is a treasure trove of rare and protected wildlife. The village is also well known for its festivals."

"Arundel people love their countryside," said Kay Wagland, secretary of ArundelSCATE, part of South Coast Alliance for Transport and the Environment.

"We want to see traffic issues resolved, but not by sacrificing our countryside or losing local business for a costly dual carriageway."

Arundel mayor councillor James Stewart said on behalf of Arundel Town Council: "A bypass is needed for Arundel

to reduce pollution and allow traffic to move freely."

The council's preferred option is the cancelled pink-blue route: "It is the shortest route requiring the minimum amount of new road. It does not go through any villages and does not go through ancient woodland," Mr Stewart said.

While this is the council's current view, he confirmed a new position might be arrived at once options for the A27 are finalised.

Mr Stewart promised that the options would be subject to public consultation.

A pro-bypass group called OneArundel is in the process of being formed, he added.

Arundel and South Downs MP Nick Herbert said he was 'dismayed' at the Chichester decision but 'reassured that the Arundel Bypass will proceed as planned'.



Are plans for a bypass at Arundel under threat?

Park home owners plan a protest

Three local MPs have teamed up in a bid to highlight 'shortcomings' in legislation which is causing 'very real hardship' to some park home residents.

MPs Nick Gibb, Nick Herbert and Sir Peter Bottomley have been working with Arun District Council on this issue.

Mr Gibb said: "It is very clear we need an urgent review of the current legislation and that we need to improve and strengthen the law to give them better protection."

"We now need to ensure that Arun and other local authorities have the powers they need to protect vulnerable residents."

A protest is planned by park home owners to highlight the topic on March 21 outside of Downing Street.

Last Wednesday the MPs met the Housing Minister Gavin Barwell MP to bring to his attention to what they believe are shortcomings in the current legislation.

sacrificing our countryside for an unnecessary and costly

JFVH-A-2-005