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Village Slams Bypass, Plans Big Demo

Gasps of anger filled a small Sussex Church, as packed pews saw an Arundel Bypass option’s 20-foot embankment projected over the altar. Luke Wishart, farmer-landowner and chair of Arundel Bypass Neighbourhood Committee (ABNC), said, “I was baptised in that Saxon font 84 years ago, and my middle name is Binsted. We all love this place, but Option 5A would be the death of the farm and the village.

Also at the Binsted village meeting were irate representatives of Walberton Parish Council, Binsted Arts Festival, MAVES and local recreational groups. Highways England’s consultation was slammed as full of wrong facts and things left out. The response forms were slated as “too difficult and time-consuming to fill in”. Emma Tristram, ABNC Secretary, said, “The exhibition and brochure give no idea that there is a village here, and no idea of the wonderful place and community that would have its heart ripped out by Option 5A.”

“Our Petition to reject Option 5A has grown quickly to over 2,200”, announced resident Bill Treves. “Signatures are still flooding in, but as we’ve already gone over 2000 we have presented it this week to the South Downs National Park Authority, Arun District Council, West Sussex County Council and Nick Herbert MP. They need to know all these people care that Option 5A would ruin Binsted’s peaceful beauty and wreck its community. [Our film, ‘Save Binsted’,](https://youtu.be/Vz7lLnMlWlY) has been viewed over 2000 times in its first week on Youtube.”

“We are angry that Highways England have ignored [MAVES’s](http://www.maves.org.uk) professional ecological surveys when they decided what routes to put forward”, said Julia Plumstead. “Their ecological assessment is out of date, they hadn’t a clue about the wildlife in Binsted. When proper mitigation costs are added for 5A they will be way over the £250M budget.”

A group of villagers and friends of Binsted were photographed before the meeting with protest banners saying ‘Save Binsted – NO Option 5A’. They are planning a huge Save Binsted Demonstration event on Sunday 8th October, 1pm at the Strawberry Fair Fields and Barn, BN180LL. “If you love Binsted and its beautiful countryside, please come and show the world you care,” said local resident artist Gilly McCadden. “Now is the time to stand up for what you love about this part of Sussex, or risk losing it.”

“It’s no surprise that the South Downs National Park Authority, the South Downs Society, the Woodland Trust, Sussex Wildlife Trust and other environmental organisations are all against all three options as they stand, but there are differences, for instance some of them would accept Option 1 with changes”, said Mike Tristram of ABNC. “When Highways England have done their homework properly they will find Option 5A is the worst of all. It would be a criminal waste of money if they pick it as their Preferred Route, and the height of Trumpery if they build it through this place. Anger is rising in the villages, if Highways don’t drop it we will fight it all the way.”

**NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

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**For the 4-minute ‘Save Binsted’ Film, click:** <https://youtu.be/Vz7lLnMlWlY>

**For more online information about the Arundel Bypass see:**

[www.arundelbypass.co.uk](http://www.arundelbypass.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/arundelbypass](http://www.facebook.com/arundelbypass)

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* For more information about Binsted village see [www.binsted.org](http://www.binsted.org)
* For more information about the environment of Binsted see [www.maves.org.uk](http://www.maves.org.uk)
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