

# West Sussex Gazette

Wednesday, October 21 2020

TRUSTED NEWS SINCE 1853

www.westsussextoday.co.uk

£1.10



### Wakehurst

A dazzling display of colour

Page 5

### Goodwood

Vital thrills for fans

Page 10

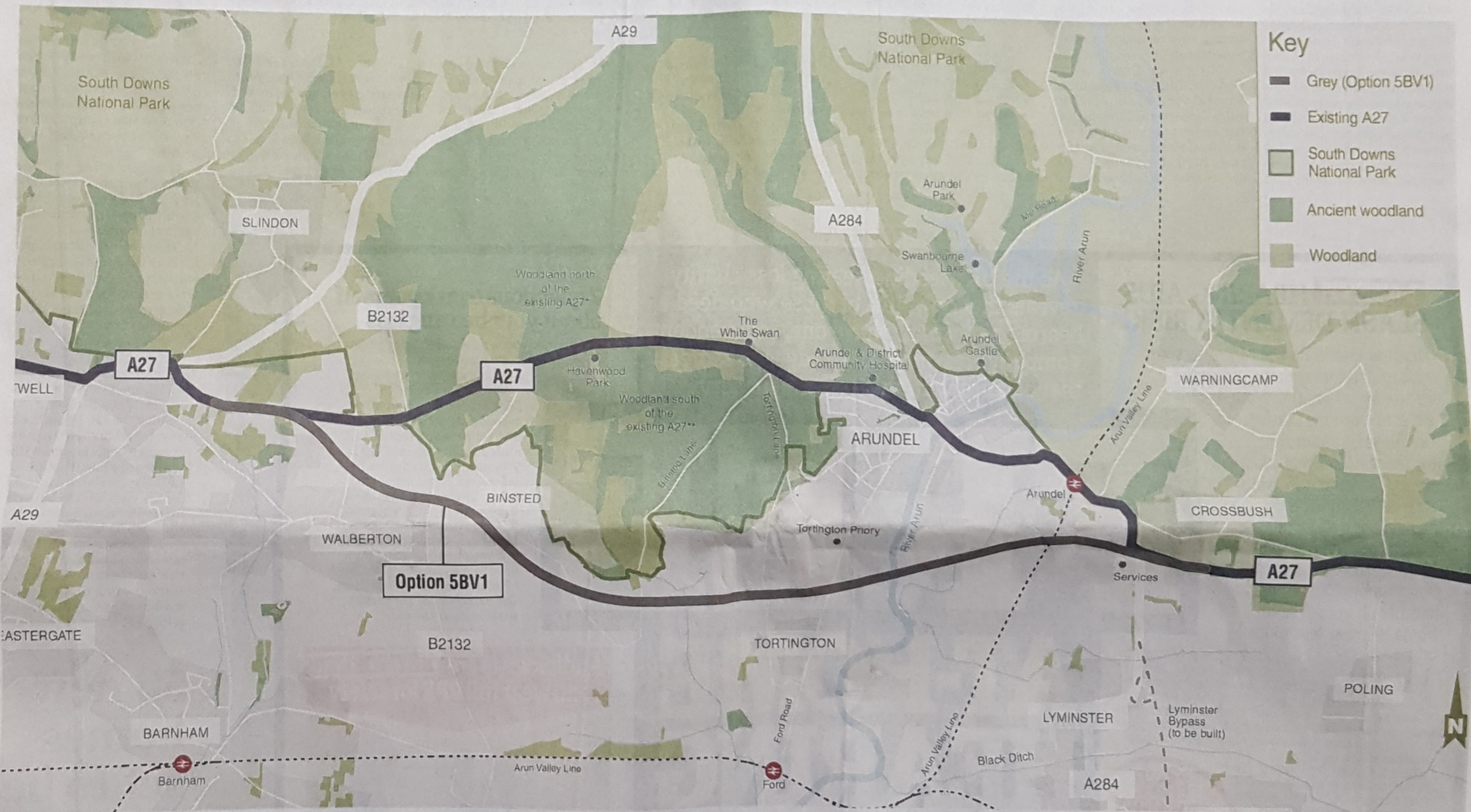


### Charity Hike for Sussex hospices

Page 7



## New route for Arundel Bypass gets praise and scorn in equal measure



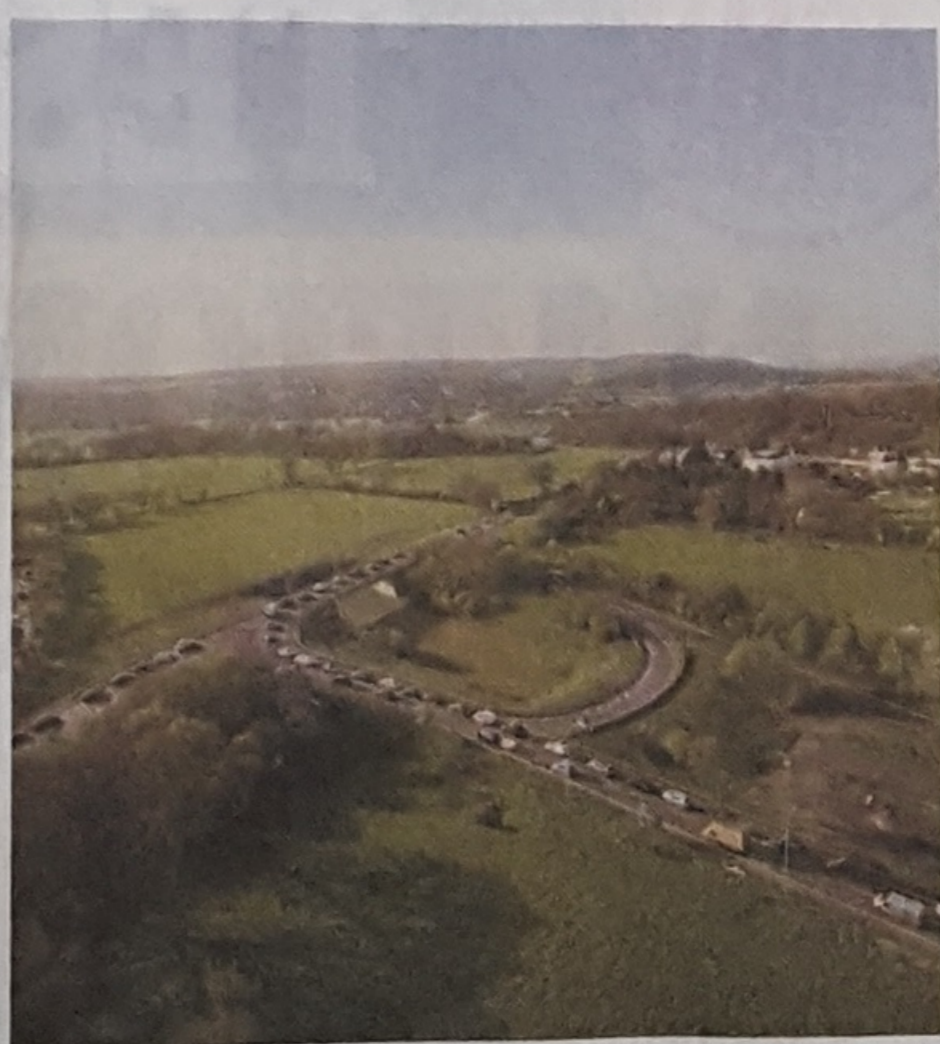
**JAMES BUTLER**  
Senior Reporter  
ws.letters@pimedia.co.uk

The new route for the proposed Arundel Bypass has split opinion in West Sussex. Highways England's new preferred route - the 'grey' option, 5BV1, which was put forward at last year's further consultation - 'strikes the right balance between creating vital new road capacity and protecting the special environment and cultural heritage in and around Arundel', Highways England said on Thursday. The plans include a new five-mile dual carriageway which will draw traffic away from Arundel and reduce rat-running on minor roads through the national park. This route sweeps south

of the South Downs National Park and includes a new dual carriageway between Crossbush in the east and a new junction near Tye Lane in the west. It is the longest and costliest of the six routes put forward, estimated by Highways England last year at £320million to £455million; cuts through the least amount of woodland - 1.49 hectares, compared to 20.57 for the most impactful option - and is the only option not to pass through at least part of the national park. It would also save the most driving time: six to 11 minutes per journey, Highways England previously estimated. It is expected to deliver benefits for 60 years. But it will heavily impact the villages of Binsted, Walberton and Tortington, whose residents have fought against

bypass plans for years. The new road would cut through Binsted Valley, passing close to the village's 12th-century church, natural wetlands and a rare chalk stream, campaigners said. Both Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council originally backed the 'magenta route' option, which was similar to the grey route but went through ancient woodland and the South Downs National Park and went through more of Binsted than Walberton. Suzanne Clark, chairman of Walberton Parish Council, said it was the 'worst possible option' for the villages. She added: "Grey' carves through both Binsted and Walberton and Eastern Fontwell. It cuts our villages off from each other. Four of our villages' lanes will be closed or dramatically changed."

And Emma Tristram, of Binsted, who previously blocked bypass plans with a High Court challenge, felt Highways England had 'ignored public opinion' as 'only seven per cent of responders voted for [grey] in the public consultation'. "A majority of the responders, 64 per cent, wanted Beige or Cyan [routes that followed the current path of the A27] or 'do nothing', she said. Environmental campaigners are also unhappy. The countryside charity CPRE Sussex said it was 'appalled' by the news and the Arundel SCATE community group said it wanted all bypass plans to be scrapped. Jean Norton, secretary of Arundel SCATE, said: "This announcement flies in the face of all the evidence about what (Continued on page 3)



The Crossbush junction of the A27, pictured above, will be the starting point of the bypass in the east



Suzanne Clark, chairman of Walberton Parish Council

£1.10 ISSN 0963-3898  
9 770963 389191 43 >