

'Village voices' have to be heard on A27

Local MP Norman Baker has called for 'the voice of the villages' to be heard in A27 plans.

The Lib Dem member has called a meeting of the parishes along the road to take soundings about proposed changes and ensure their views are given proper weight by the government.

Local parish representatives, whose parishes would be directly affected by changes to the A27, will meet today (Friday) week to discuss the latest position.

Many of the parishes have voiced concerns at some proposals for the road and yet have been left feeling unheard by the decision makers in this process. Mr Baker said, "Following the Autumn Statement that provisionally allocated a maximum of £75m for works to and associated with the A27 corridor between Polegate and Lewes, I am keen to reconvene the parishes' meeting which originally gathered earlier this year in order to discuss the latest position.

"I am determined that any monies spent take full account of the views of the parishes along the road, which to my mind are far more relevant



Common view: Norman Baker

than the rather self-serving statements being made by those who do not live in the area, from Eastbourne, Brighton and elsewhere.

"Conservatives from outside the area are treating the villages like some sort of colonial possession whose view can be safely ignored. However I am determined that their voices be properly heard.

"If we are able to come to a common view that will help enormously in arguing for an appropriate allocation of funds and will help me when I present the findings to the Transport Secretary.