

Letters to the Editor

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City still has many years of grid-locking to 'look forward to'

I CONTINUE to be surprised at the relative lack of comment from Chichester residents on the subject of the A27 improvements beyond their own city, those being proposed for Arundel in particular.

While Chichester, an even more ancient town than Arundel, has had a bypass for many years its centre continues to be traffic-jammed for most of the working day, unlike Arundel which endures congestion on its outskirts for less than three hours per day.

However, as all of those people queuing

to get into or out of Chichester, mainly in cars, either live, work, shop or spend leisure time there, and this being a built-up urban space, it is clearly not a problem that can be solved by road improvement alone.

No matter how good traffic movement becomes on the A27, those people will still take their vehicles into the city. Consequently, while the hoped-for improvements to the roundabouts outside Chichester might speed up A27 traffic and may make getting in and out of Chichester

slightly easier, they will not actually reduce the numbers of vehicles driving into the city.

I would suggest that any improvement to the A27 at Arundel, if it precedes the Chichester improvements, is simply going to deliver more traffic to the Chichester bottlenecks more quickly, strangling the city.

At the very least, while improvements are made Chichester residents have several years of grid-locking to look forward to followed by a return to the same old

problem - too many cars in Chichester.

The 'A27 Action Campaign', though they claim to be looking at the south coast trunk road as a whole, in putting so much emphasis on the Arundel section are doing a great disservice to Chichester residents and businesses in that part of West Sussex. Until roads campaigners start looking at the problems holistically the problems will never be solved, only temporarily eased.

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