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From: Emma Tristram [<mailto:emma.tristram@dsl.pipex.com>]

Sent: 30 October 2014 10:15

To: [gary.shipton@chiobserver.co.uk](mailto:gary.shipton@chiobserver.co.uk)

Subject: Emailing: ABNC press release about ABNC and WPC meetings in October 14, arundel bypass misrepresentation letter to WSG as sent

Dear Mr Shipton

I attach a press release from the Arundel Bypass Neighbourhood Committee. I would be grateful if you would publish it in next week's West Sussex Gazette.

An impression is being formed that you are acting on behalf of the pro-bypass A27 Action Campaign by suppressing alternative views on the bypass in your newspapers. For instance, you did not publish this week my letter (re-attached here) pointing out that your report of 22 October (West Sussex Gazette) about the Roads Minister's meeting was a misrepresentation. For the record, your report described the meeting, which was organised by the Campaign for Better Transport and the Chair of the A27 Feasibility Study so the minister could meet local residents concerned about road plans along the A27, as a meeting of the minister with Nick Herbert and named pro-bypass councillors. This report was against Clause 1 of the Editors' Code of Practice of the IPSO, which says 'The Press must take care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorted information'.

However, at some point you will have to start reporting the voices and actions of local people who are furious that decisions seem to be being taken about the bypass, and viable options rejected, without public consultation or balanced press reporting. There is another meeting of the local group Arundel SCATE this Monday, November the 3rd, because over 200 people came to their meeting in September and only 90 could be fitted in the meeting room. An important reason for the interest in ASCATE's campaign is the lack of information.

On 4 November there is another meeting of the Stakeholder Reference Group of the A27 Feasibility Study in Brighton. If it is revealed that only Options A and B (the old Pink/Blue route, which now crosses the National Park, and the very damaging new route through Binsted and Walberton) are recommended for announcement in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, there will be an outcry. If this is not reported without misrepresentation in the local press, there will be complaints to the IPSO.

The last time there was a public consultation at which the principle of an offline bypass was tested against online work was 1987, when the Purple (online), Red and Orange (offline) routes were offered. A whole generation has passed and many things have changed. It is entirely reasonable for people to want to be consulted about the principle of an offline bypass before online options are rejected. Also, online options have been

suggested this time (by the consultants in August) which were not available then - such as a tunnel.

It is a pity that sensible discussion about the problems of the A27 at Arundel is being made impossible by the separate problem of lack of representation, including biased press reporting. I hope therefore that you will see fit to publish this factual press release about the actions of the Arundel Bypass Neighbourhood Committee and Walberton Parish Council.

Emma Tristram