

Motion for Full Council July 2021 submitted by Cllr Page

Preamble

The Local Plan Review's Transport Policies are limited only to mitigate that plan's effect on the A27 at Chichester, in other words to make things no worse. It promises no improvement. Inevitably therefore there will be increasing pressure from new development in Chichester and adjacent Districts and Boroughs. Road transport (however it is powered) will remain necessary for economic and social purposes.

As a result:

1. The already unacceptable levels of congestion and safety issues on the A27 Chichester by-pass will continue to worsen, with all the environmental, social and economic harm that entails.
2. The District's local highway network will see increasing amounts of traffic along mainly minor roads and through the City seeking to avoid the congested A27 by-pass junctions and lengthening queues on to those junctions.
3. Local Plan A27 by-pass junction mitigation works themselves will result in enormous disruption and inconvenience over a number of years and have very limited benefit before further works are required.

Recommendation:

Given the above, this Council,

- a. is convinced that only a by-pass that separates local traffic from through traffic will provide a cost effective and comprehensive long term solution for the strategic road network at Chichester, and
- b. that only such a by-pass will allow sufficient existing local highway network road space to be reallocated for walking, cycling and bus infrastructure to make a significant change in local residents' travel choices.

As the Council's preferred solution to this problem is a mitigated northern route as proposed by the BABA27 study, and noting that Highways England have announced that the A27 is among the list of projects to be developed for possible future funding with public participation, this Council calls on the Secretary of State for Transport to ensure that all options, including a northern route, will be the subject of earliest possible consideration by Highways England to resolve the chronic traffic problems of Chichester once and for all, and invites the support of Chichester's MP and WSCC.