

Louise Goldsmith
Leader of the Council

T: 03302 222514
louise.goldsmith@westsussex.gov.uk
www.westsussex.gov.uk

Cabinet Office
County Hall
West Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ



Mr Jim O'Sullivan
Chief Executive
Highways England
The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street
BIRMINGHAM
B1 1RN

16th December 2016

Our Ref: LG/ces
Your Ref: CEO 18301751

Dear Jim

A27 Chichester Improvement Scheme

Thank you for your letter of 9th December and I am grateful for your swift reply to my letter.

I am disappointed to learn that you will not be publishing the results of the consultation on your Website but will retain them and release them only with Highways England's preferred option. You will know there is considerable local interest in the results of the consultation and I would have hoped, considering the strength of feeling about the whole consultation process, that it would be of great interest to all of those who have contributed and would also help to rebuild faith with the public that these are published as soon as possible. To do otherwise would understandably raise suspicions of a process that lacks transparency and openness.

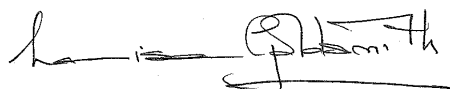
I note what you say about the RIS but I doubt very much that those responding to the consultation exercise – across businesses and residents will understand that point. They are expecting the best solution to a real problem. If the majority response has been to reject all of the options for junction improvements then surely there must be a case for reconsidering the validity of the RIS and the rationale behind it. Also - is there not a case to be made for running another consultation that includes the option of reopening the RIS to consider a northern bypass?

At a private function last Thursday Chris Grayling did say he would be prepared to look at the possibility of re-running the Consultation subject to the agreement of Councils and the MP. I accept there are considerable implications for time delay and the possibility of the missing the current funding round but this project is of such significance for so many reasons that we must do what we can to secure the right and the best outcome. Can I therefore ask you to consider what could be done to broaden the options and re-engage the local community?

.../

Finally I would just ask whether you can confirm that Highways England have been working to the Origin and Destination Statistics as measured in the July of 2014.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise Goldsmith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Louise Goldsmith

Leader

West Sussex County Council