

The Rt Hon Nick Herbert MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

25 June 2014

Dear Nick

Re: A27 Arundel

A number of your constituents have sent Margaret Paren a copy of a detailed and thoughtful email about the proposals for the A27 addressed to the Minister. I thought you might find it helpful if I set out the SDNPA response to these issues.

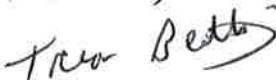
The SDNPA is a statutory consultee for major infrastructure projects including Highways Agency trunk road schemes. We are actively engaged with a range of organisations (including the Highways Agency and WSCC) and elected and unelected representatives who have an interest in what happens to the A27. Our starting point is that the National Park is a nationally designated, protected landscape, with twin Purposes laid down by Parliament. Any proposed schemes either inside or bordering the National Park must therefore take into consideration all potential impacts on the special qualities for which it is designated.

We are also keen to see that any proposals brought forward are clearly justified in terms of the problems they aim to solve and are seen in the wider context of a sustainable approach to transport and mobility. The Department for Transport hierarchy sets out a clear approach which we would like to see rigorously applied in this case, ie that consideration should be given to a total package of measures which:

- reduce the need to travel;
- enable switching to more sustainable modes;
- make more effective use of existing networks, and (only as part of this overall approach);
- create extra network capacity.

Past evidence shows that the majority of traffic on the A27 is local, so we are also keen to see that any proposals brought forward should look at how upgrading this route would impact upon the local road network and what effect it would have on the ability of the public to reduce non-essential car journeys, travel at different times, and make more use of train and bus services, cycling and walking.

The SDNPA remain willing to participate in any further studies of possible routes for the A27, to ensure that any solution aims to reduce CO2 emissions and improves air quality, the landscape, biodiversity and the lives of those who live, work and visit the SDNP.

Yours sincerely


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