



WALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
INCLUDING FONTWELL AND BINSTED
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National Highways
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
GU1 4LZ

6th March 2024

Dear National Highways

As the Chair of Walberton Parish Council (WPC) and on behalf of the Council, I write to you to express our concern over the level of consultation we have received from National Highways concerning the proposed A27 Arundel Bypass.

WPC are not only an interested party as per section 102(c)(a)(i) of the Planning Act 2008 and a statutory party for the purposes of the eventual examination process, but also a statutory consultee, as defined by the Planning Act 2008, and for the purposes of the Development Consent Order for the A27 Arundel Bypass, WPC was entitled to receive information which:

“is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)”
(Regulation 12(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations 2017)

The Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 7 at sections 8.5 and 8.6¹ state the level of detail of information provided should be accessible and meet our needs. WPC has not to date received information of a sufficiency to enable it to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed A27 Bypass, including those regarding its impacts upon WPC, its parishioners, the environment within the Parish, and setting, as well as future housing

¹ 8.5 Therefore, the level of detail and type of PEI may vary depending on:

- at what stage in the design process the consultation is carried out;
- the target audience; and
- the complexity of the Proposed Development and the receiving environment.

8.6 Applicants should respond to these points and consider the most appropriate form in which to present the PEI. Applicants should be aware that the level of detail provided in the PEI may influence the content of consultees’ responses. For example, consultees may look for more or less technical information depending upon their interests. The information provided in the PEI should be accessible yet meet consultees’ different needs. Applicants may find it useful to provide more than one version of PEI depending upon whom they are consulting.

requirements. The PEIR produced by National Highways was wholly inadequate as was made clear in our consultation response to it, as you are no doubt aware. Moreover, WPC have not been kept informed in relation to National Highways' decision-making processes relating to the A27 Arundel Bypass: decisions have been made in relation to the scheme that affected WPC, the Parish and its concerns without discussion or consultation. This is unacceptable and inadequate.

If sufficient information had been made available, it would have allowed WPC to understand the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed A27 Arundel Bypass on the Parish, and helped to inform meaningfully the content of our consultation responses to the proposed Development Consent Order application during the pre-application stage as well as helping to inform discussion with National Highways in relation to how the scheme might be developed, and our concerns addressed. As per our representation to the consultation we consider that not all required information has been forthcoming, and that National Highways has been economical with WPC in terms of their level of engagement.

It is noticeable that National Highways have not contacted the Parish Council directly since a decision was made to defer the scheme. We note on National Highways' website that National Highways are "*working through what the deferral means for that and other aspects of scheme.*" This information was added to the website in June 2023, some 8 months ago, and no further updates have been provided. We therefore ask for an update on the A27 Arundel bypass that is sufficient to meet the Parish Council's needs to understand what National Highways' current and future intentions are for the scheme.

WPC hope you will support our position as regards the lack of engagement historically and take appropriate action to ensure that WPC are appropriately consulted going forwards.

Yours sincerely

Andy Vawer
Chair, Walberton Parish Council