

Worthing timetable update

A Freedom of Information request by Chris Todd of the Campaign for Better Transport has brought some news about the Worthing timetable as copied below. They plan to talk to local groups during Jly-Dec 2016; but before that in April/May 2016 'update on scheme development' sounds as if they will be letting the cat out of the bag as to what options they are then considering for consultation.

NB the trajectory is slightly faster than they currently publish on their website – they are talking here about Public Consultation Jan/Feb 2017 and Preferred Route Announcement Summer 2017, rather than Spring 2017 and Autumn 2017 as shown on their website.

The following timetable will depend on satisfactory progress being made on technical studies and design issues. The timescales are similar for both the Worthing/Lancing and Arundel Schemes.

1. April 2016 – Update briefings on scheme development with Local Authorities
2. April/May 2016 - Wider Stakeholder Meetings – Update briefing on scheme development
3. July to Dec 2016 – meetings with Local Authorities (inc Parish Councils) and local groups
4. Jan/Feb 2017 - Public Consultation on Options
5. Summer 2017 – Preferred Route announcement
6. Summer 2018 – submission of DCO application, if required. Note this depends on which options is selected for the preferred route

New threat to the Worthing downs – from a Chichester North Bypass expressway

- Since our last update the cat has been put among the pigeons by Highways surprise revelation that they now intend to include a Chichester North Bypass option in the faster-track spring 2016 public consultation. The draft maps for this have been exposed by the press and can now all be seen on www.arundelbypass.co.uk/chichester.
- More information can be found on www.chichesterdeservesbetter.co.uk and a summary of the strategic implications can be found on the National Park Forum here: <http://southdownsforum.ning.com/profiles/blogs/chichester-a27-a-new-threat-to-the-park>.
- *In a nutshell*: if they manage to get a decision in favour of a Chichester North Bypass expressway, bringing the Hampshire style A27(M) with almost no local access around Chichester at high speed to crash to a halt at Fontwell and Arundel, and Worthing, then the pressure will increase to put a downland Worthing Bypass route back on the table. The implications would be horrendous – not just for our own downland and rural community and businesses, but for Sussex as a whole, which would suffer a massive influx of long distance traffic switching from the M25 or taking longer journeys, and great difficulties for local traffic seeking to access the A27 or to find alternatives.

Please therefore support www.chichesterdeservesbetter.co.uk in their efforts to oppose the Chichester North Bypass concept and to advocate an approach more appropriate to the needs of Sussex people and the local economy and environment.

More information on www.somptingestate.com/a27 and on <http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-pr...>

Mike Tristram Managing Trustee
01243 551635 07771 897613

Sompting Estate



@SomptingDowns
www.somptingestate.com