

Gillian Keegan MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

19<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear all,

I wrote to you recently to let you know I had attended a meeting with Jesse Norman MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Transport and Jim O'Sullivan, Chief Executive at Highways England to discuss the A27 improvements for the Chichester area.

At that meeting they confirmed they cannot give us more time to find a community solution to the scheme in the Government's RIS 1 (Roads Investment Strategy) budget due to the rules that regulate and govern expenditure within the RIS programme. They have written to me to that effect and I share that letter with you in this note.

I shared this news with Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council who asked me to clarify a number of areas which I have now done. Obviously this is disappointing news for all of us and therefore we need your support to decide the next steps we should take. As you will see from the letter, Highways England has asked us to consider two options.

Our first option is to carefully re-examine the consultation options. We can draw on the work the community has done together on the requirements for the A27 and to explore what improvements would need to be put in place to make one of those options acceptable to the community as a whole. This would give us access to funding in RIS1 however we would still need to meet the criteria to demonstrate community consensus to get access to this budget.

Our second option is to submit a proposal for improvement to the A27 at Chichester in a future spending period for the Road Investment Scheme (RIS) programme; namely RIS 2. Highways England has said that would mean any new scheme for Chichester would likely be scheduled for start in 2023 as opposed to the current date of 2020. Whilst this investment is not guaranteed Highways England will work to support us.

I know this is not where we wanted to be but we now need to come together to decide how we move forward.

We will be holding another Build a Better A27 community event on the 25<sup>th</sup> September where we will discuss the choices we need to make as a community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Keegan'.

**Gillian Keegan MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Chichester**