



At the request of WSCC a Public MEETING WAS CONVENED ON March 22nd by Lavant Parish Council to consult on WSCC's longlist suggestions for the A27 improvements. 179 stakeholders signed in with only 2 days' notice via house to house leaflets. This is indicative of the frustration over WSCC's failure to achieve an appropriate solution over many years to mitigate the impact of congestion.

There is strong concern from both Lavant's stakeholders and the LPC concerning the viability of solutions being offered by WSCC as part of the latest round of Consultations.

Both LPC and the Stakeholders consider that WSCC should concentrate solely on upgrading the online route with junction and related improvements. This approach echoes the WSCC strategy that is well documented in its Transport Plan 2011 – 2026, which clearly refers to the improvement of the A27 junctions.

LPC and the Stakeholders also strongly question the escalating cost of exploring plans and schemes which are not supported by WSCC policy, do not equate to the core budget constraint advised by HE and jeopardise the inclusion in RIS2 funding. Therefore, LPC believes that WSCC 's focus should adhere to the local and national policies as identified in LPC's document released in conjunction with Itchenor Parish Council of 03/09/2017. These policies have not changed.

To help the discussion of how best to mitigate the issues raised at the HE consultation in relation to the on-line improvements, LPC issued a proposal

that assessed the primary concerns. They suggested a new intermediate junction to replace both the Stockbridge and Fishbourne roundabouts which would mitigate the impact on the Stockbridge residential area and the AONB. This was prepared and submitted in good faith in September 2017 but has been ignored by WSCC.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/10886/lpc-contribution-paper-for-baba27-nov-17-2.pdf>

LPC and the stakeholders consider the latest round of Consultations to be seriously flawed. As a Parish Council we have concerns regarding the two weeks' consultation time (15th -28th March), with no prior warning to relevant authorities, and no clear direction to Councils regarding the format of response required.

As of 25th March, LPC has no guidelines from the BAB27 Project Manager's Team and indeed an attendee from this team was requested but turned down "as not enough notice". In the absence of any guidance and due to the nature of a large meeting the LPC focus was on a quantitative response.

Stakeholders were encouraged to make their qualitative response through completion of the online WSCC survey or Chi Observer Paper questionnaire. With reference to the "Session Questions" (on the SYSTRA document), it was impractical / impossible to review Long List suggestions within the space, with the numbers of attendees, and with the information given to LPC (no details and no maps), and within the time available. Likewise, mitigation measures could not be fully discussed. Language/ terminology of the document (e.g. "junction widening junctions") also impeded informed debate amongst attendees.

LPC and their stakeholders are very concerned about the integrity, the nature and the organisation of the Questionnaire and Survey produced by both WSCC and the Chichester Observer. Specifically, it is open to abuse, as there appears to be no limit to the number of times an individual respondent can complete the survey/questionnaire. LPC have other major concerns about the format and presentation. Therefore, in the absence of any information

regarding the transparency and the integrity of these documents, LPC is forced to point out that its findings cannot, should not, and must not be used by WSCC to inform any decisions.

LPC feel that the main difficulty which emerged from their meeting with their stakeholders, is that by participating and acting in a spirit of cooperation (which they wish to do) in this consultation, they are being manoeuvred into a process which is, in itself, flawed. As a consequence, few hard evidence-based results have been achieved after 12 months. There is frustration within the community over consultations that appear to be leading nowhere.

None of the SYSTRA options is clearly defined with drawings, or costed, and LPC has no knowledge of the available core budget. It is our collective opinion that the current process may well lead to unrealistic and undeliverable options with the consequent waste of time and public money.

It is regrettable but the strong message from the LPC meeting with its stakeholders was that WSCC strategy, given their historic stated policies, is irresponsible. LPC is also concerned that WSCC, as a key stakeholder, cannot be truly impartial in this process. History shows that key authorities cannot police themselves and gain a united public.