



# Chalvington with Ripe



**Parish Clerk** – Paul Richards    **Email:** [chalvingtonwithripeclerk@gmail.com](mailto:chalvingtonwithripeclerk@gmail.com)    **Phone:** 07824 312070  
**Address** - Dawtreys, Bracken Lane, Storrington, West Sussex, RH20 3HR

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Tom Rankin  
Project Manager -A27 Lewes to Polegate Project  
National Highways  
National Traffic Operations Centre  
3 Ridgeway  
Quinton Business Park  
Birmingham  
B32 1AF  
16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Mr. Rankin,

## **A27 Lewes to Polegate Improvement Scheme**

Following the recent service of requests by National Highways to carry out surveys of land in our Parish to identify potential solutions for the A27 Lewes to Polegate Improvement Scheme, concerned parishioners have sought the support of the Parish Council. At the meeting of the Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council on 6 December 2021, the Council resolved to oppose a new off-line route, with any further improvements between Lewes to Polegate made along the existing route of the A27.

We are opposed to a new motorway-style road being constructed through our residents' properties, and the beautiful surrounding countryside, enjoyed by a much wider population. The environmental damage would be multiplied by the need to raise the new road above the level of surrounding low-lying land to avoid flooding. Many acres of land would be despoiled, lost under the concrete used for construction of a new road, its bridges, roundabouts, and slip roads.

A new road would also bring new constant noise pollution to what is, along much of the proposed stretch, still an oasis of calm and tranquillity.

A claimed benefit of a new offline route set out in Highways England's Strategic Outline Business Case A27 East of Lewes Outline Study September 2018 is that travel times will be marginally improved. However, this seems neither here nor there as we do not know what the traffic flows will be in 5 or 25 years' time. Since the Outline Business Case, the pandemic has fundamentally changed travel patterns, with much more home-working now established and which are unlikely to be fully reversed. The forecast travel times also ignore any further on-line improvements which could be carried out on this section of the A27. There have been a lot of improvements made, or which are in the process of being made to the A27 from Arundel to Polegate, in addition to the £75 million package of works to the Lewes to Polegate section, which will improve travel times in each direction.

There is a case for investing further to make the current A27 safer and more reliable, at a fraction of the cost of a new offline dual carriageway, deliverable way before a completely new road.

Climate change requires action now. It is not the time for constructing this new road. More sustainable means of transport should be implemented. There is an immediate gain to be had by promoting modal shift from road to rail, as the Welsh government has begun doing.

Along the A27 corridor, there is considerable spare capacity, both in existing rolling stock and in terms of train paths on the parallel railway. People should be encouraged to switch to rail. There would be a cost to that, but it is a tiny fraction of the potential one billion pounds a new dual carriageway stretch between the two towns would cost.

Please acknowledge receipt in due course.

Your sincerely



Parish Clerk  
For Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council

Copy to:  
Maria Caulfield MP  
Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for transport  
Councillor Nick Bennett, East Sussex County Council  
Councillor David Watts, Wealden District Council