



SPIRIT FM'S BREAKFAST SHOW PRESENTER STUART MCGINELY

Vital for people to know about road plans before it's too late

We all agree the A27 Chichester bypass needs upgrading but what's the solution?

Upgrading the existing route seemed most likely until recently when a couple of new draft proposals have come to light showing a brand new northern bypass. Spirit FM teamed up with the Coun-

ty Times' sister paper the Chichester Observer to ask for clarity on the situation as Highways England wouldn't say anything in public, so we both decided to publish the draft maps to give the public more of an idea about the implications of these plans. Highways England has commissioned roads company Mott MacDonald to come up with potential routes around the

city to take traffic off the A27, when they are officially made public, they will only be open to public consultation for just six weeks, surely this isn't long enough for such a big decision? Local campaign group 'Chichester Deserves Better' has been working closely with Spirit FM and the Observer to try and get more information out to the public about these plans, but it's been proving a

difficult task as so many people have been forced to sign confidentially agreements or not talk about the plans publicly. You might be south of Chichester and thinking a new northern bypass is a great idea, especially if you always get stuck in traffic trying to get across the A27 from Bognor, Selsey and the Witterings. However, what we aren't been told is that if the new road goes

ahead, we could see around 34,000 new homes being built to the north of the City itself and as a result the current traffic levels will return to the current A27 within about five years.

So it would appear that this isn't in the long-term interests of Chichester or all the surrounding towns and villages at all. There is also the issue of any future investment funds

being diverted away from the current road to the new one, so the traffic levels will return to those we see now, but with no prospect of improvements. If you haven't yet seen the draft proposals I urge you to have a look on the Spirit and Observer websites as it's vital as many people know about these plans before it's too late and Chichester really does deserve better!