



Adur & Worthing businesses need an improved A27

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We need to be realistic!

- Adur and Worthing businesses would be in favour of long term solution i.e. the by-pass option, however budget limitations mean this is an unrealistic goal
- Budget limitations mean the best we can hope for are improvements to the existing A27 between Swandean and Lancing
- Adur and Worthing businesses **NEED** an improved A27 to continue to prosper

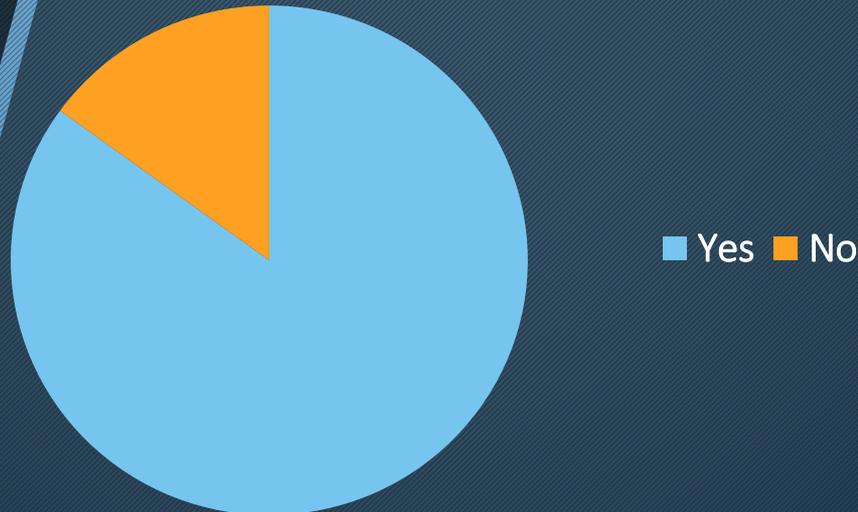


Worthing & Adur Survey

Worthing & Adur Chamber of Commerce recently conducted a survey asking members the question “Does the A27 have any adverse affects on your business?”

85% of members who responded to the survey said their business was adversely affected by the A27.

% of local businesses affected by A27



Basic facts

- West Sussex coastal towns form part of a large urban area
- The population in West Sussex is equivalent in size to some of the UK's largest cities (809,000 - 2015)
- Transport infrastructure supporting the area is struggling to cope with vast numbers of vehicles using the A27
- The number of cars on England's roads rose to 25.8M in the third quarter of 2015, a year-on-year increase of almost 600,000
- South-East England has seen the largest rise, with 373,200 more cars on the road in the past five years



The A27 is a long road.....

The A27 runs from Whiteparish (Wiltshire) all along the South coast to Pevensey (East Sussex) and is the ONLY East/West trunk road south of the M25 between Portsmouth and Lewes.

As a result the A27 is heavily used and is widely recognised as one of the most congested and unreliable roads in Britain, largely due to the series of bottle necks and inefficient junctions located in Chichester, Arundel, Worthing and Lancing.



Impact on businesses

The damaging impact of the A27 in terms of congestion, delays and unpredictable journey times in the Adur and Worthing areas is ongoing, and inhibits business growth and future employment

- A27 capacity and flow issues directly affect local businesses and employees getting to and from their place of work – typically 60 minutes or more from Worthing to Chichester at 09.00
- Local logistic companies and similar, incur higher costs due to traffic congestion and the increased difficulties they face with the current road infrastructure
- It is difficult to attract and secure new business in to the area, due to the current inadequate transport infrastructure and associated problems, which limits local economic growth
- Restrictions on commuting reduces size of labour market and inhibits the recruitment and retention of employees

Statistics

A local business who use the A27 on a regular basis recorded the length and time of similar journeys undertaken during October 2016. The results showed that a typical 13 mile route using the A27 took on average 53 minutes to complete travelling at an average speed of 16mph!

Day	From	To	Miles	Journey Time	Depart	Arrive	MPH Average
Monday	Lancing	Arundel	10.87	00:57	08:03	09:00	11
Wednesday	Lancing	Arundel	13.67	00:58	06:41	07:39	14
Tuesday	Ford	Lancing	15.84	01:01	08:41	09:40	15
Tuesday	Lancing	Littlehampton	13.61	00:51	06:53	07:45	16
Friday	Lancing	Arundel	11.12	00:39	08:34	09:14	17
Monday	Lancing	Ford	13.67	00:48	07:42	08:40	17
Monday	Lancing	Littlehampton	13.55	00:45	07:02	07:47	18
Wednesday	Lyminster	Lancing	11.12	00:35	06:13	06:49	19
Thursday	Lancing	Ford	15.60	00:49	07:35	08:25	19
Monday	Lyminster	Almodington	16.78	00:52	06:31	07:23	19

Many local businesses - large and small have voiced their concern and views

“With offices across Sussex, we act for many clients for whom the A27 is a key factor in the operation of their day-to-day business. The uncertainty surrounding any improvements also has an impact in their planning for the future in many cases. In terms of running our own business, many of our 180 employees use the A27 on a daily basis for commuting as well traveling between our offices, 3 of which are in towns directly fed from the A27. It is important for us that we should be to rely upon the A27 as an efficient transportation link”. - Spofforths LLP

“We deliver to a number of local companies using our own vehicles. The bottlenecks and delays on the A27 have a direct impact upon this. We also receive deliveries throughout the day, every day. Again, any issues on the A27 can have an impact upon this.” - Tenkay Electronics Ltd

“The current status of the A27 and its bottleneck into Worthing from Lancing onwards often leads to delays in the arrival of transport. Transport times are critical to our business as schedules have to be maintained with ferry crossings and deliveries to wholesalers in Europe. Additionally personnel coming from the west of the county or the A24 find themselves in lengthy queues which can take an unpredictable length of time to get through. In order for our business to function efficiently we need investment into the A27 which supports the many biotech pharmaceutical companies essential to the economic growth of the country”. - Allergy Therapeutics Plc

“We serve thousands of customers on a weekly basis mostly from in and around Sussex. The A27 simply no longer works to provide access to our towns or to travel effectively to other towns. It is now time for the local government to consider the impact of the current network on business and build up the infrastructure that will be future proof, and encourage further growth and development with in the area”. - Cobra Coffee Ltd

“As a business operating from Lancing Business Park, the following problems are becoming common place:

Recruitment - Difficulty in attracting new members of staff from outside a 10 mile radius.

Competitiveness – Winning business in Bognor / Chichester / Portsmouth – Delays and the subsequent running costs will ultimately result in being less competitive (and potentially less reliable).

Growth – Our working radius is decreasing and therefore our potential clients are too.

Higher labour costs – The need to extend working shifts at the start and finish of each day to combat the delays caused by poor traffic conditions.

The above problems are all caused or exacerbated by a very poor A27.” - Sussex Transport Ltd

“The A27 is a vital piece of the road network for port traffic, but urgently needs significant improvements at the critical pinch points such as at Worthing/Lancing corridor, Arundel bypass, junctions at Chichester and Brighton to support further economic growth”. – Shoreham Port

Long term solutions are needed

With more people wanting live and work in West Sussex, there is a huge requirement to improve the A27 beyond current suggested measures.

Long term solutions must be identified in order to facilitate the needs of local businesses and residents to ensure in future years, the area continues to thrive.

Businesses in particular need to take increased responsibility. For example, encouraging staff to seek alternative travel arrangements for work, could reduce traffic congestion and delays as well as supporting local services.

Various possibilities include:

- Car sharing
- Bike to work schemes
- Public transport
- Walking to work

All of these options make much more efficient use of the limited space available on local roads.



Worthing and Adur Chamber of Commerce

The Worthing and Adur Chamber of Commerce actively represent the business community on many issues.

The A27 improvements have long been a focal topic in our area and along with other business leaders we sit on the A27 working group to ensure your business voice is heard. The A27 has become one of the most heavily used and congested trunk roads in England, linking Brighton, Worthing, Chichester, Portsmouth, Southampton, and beyond.

In order to be truly representing our Chamber members it is essential that the business voice is heard in the current consultations of the proposed changes to the A27.

At this time the plans are still in development as to what can be achieved, this is likely to be limited to improvements on the major junctions, due to the funding available. Similarly, the option of a bypass at this time is unlikely due to financial restraints.

