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Planned bypass is in the wrong place

WHEN concerned residents of Lyminster, some of them members of a protest group called 'The Forgotten Link,' turned out on Wednesday night for a 'Bypass' meeting at St Mary Magdalene Church in the village, the key phrase of the evening was 'we'll look into it'!

The bypass consultation team, led by WSCC project manager, Daniel Dei had a series of questions fired at them by local homeowners, worried about the effects of an additional 3,000 cars travelling on the A284 each day.

The Forgotten Link say that The Lyminster Bypass, planned for completion in 2016 and running north from Wick to just short of the Crossbush roundabout, makes no provision for the residents between it, and the roundabout.

With traffic jams on this stretch of road an everyday occurrence they have frequently found it impossible to enter or exit their properties.

They pointed out that there would be serious air pollution caused by engines 'idling' outside of their houses for long periods of time.

When the traffic was running freely, cars and motorbikes constantly exceeded the speed limit of 60mph, endangering their lives as they attempted to turn into their properties.

Lyminster Parish Council Chairman, Caroline Harriott stressed this point and has since advised that a Traffic Regulation Order is in the process of being passed to lower the speed limit between Old Vicarage

corner and the Crossbush interchange to 40 mph.

Other major concerns discussed included the fact that the bypass is to have an accompanying cycle and pedestrian path and yet no provision has been made for the cyclists and pedestrians at the point where the bypass.

One member of Forgotten Link asked if, with nowhere to go, they'd have to jump in the ditch! They were advised that the council would be looking into this.

The possibility of Lyminster village becoming a rat run when the bypass was gridlocked, as it surely must be, was raised, as was the possibility of the bus route closing.

"There appears to be no joined up thinking to the plans and it seems unbelievable that a section of road can be researched and planned without any consideration given to what happens beyond. I see no benefits to Lyminster whatsoever unless they bypass is built in conjunction with the highways agency and the A27 Arundel Bypass," said Caroline Harriott.

Forgotten Link members stressed that they understood the need for a Lyminster bypass, but suggested one that joined the A27 further down would make more sense. However, if the present plans go ahead they hoped any changes to the A27 Crossbush interchange would happen at the same time to avoid further gridlock on the Lyminster road.

It is vital that the A27 Campaign is supported and no more permission is given for large numbers of houses to be built in the local area or trade, commerce and tourism will be seriously affected by the lack of road infrastructure.

Jane Vening
By email