



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
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Neil Kerridge and Janet Prendiville
Co-Chairs A27 Clean Up Campaign
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29 April 2020

Dear Mr Kerridge and Ms Prendiville,

I am writing to provide you with an update following the meeting in March I attended with local authority representatives and Highways England to discuss the issues you have raised around the management of litter and cleaning on the A27.

The meeting was attended by seven representatives from four local authorities, namely Lewes, Brighton & Hove, and Adur & Worthing, who we understand had responsibility for the section of the A27 of which you had particular concern, as well as Chichester.

It was a constructive meeting, focussed on what the challenges had been to date, and the root causes. Some of the issues discussed included improving communication and collaborative working, health and safety training and costs.

A number of actions came out of the meeting to improve the challenges of the A27, these included:

- Strengthening the enforcement of littering from vehicles more collaboratively in the area, with Highways England working closely with the local authorities to target littering from vehicles in litter prone areas.
- Reviewing the costs and process required to allow local authorities and Highways England to identify efficiencies through the use of the same contractors to undertake the removal of litter and cleaning along the A27.
- Alongside this review, to ensure litter can be removed in the short to medium term, free health & safety induction training is offered by Highways England contractors to allow all local authorities to work safely on the road network within Highways England's schedule of works and undertake litter removal and cleaning.

- Improving the communication and coordination between Highways England, and in particular, one of the local authorities on the scheduling, timings and type of maintenance on the A27, that will allow targeted cleaning of litter and detritus by local authorities.
- Establishing a regular meeting between the local authorities and Highways England to discuss highway issues and areas of concern for the area, including the cleaning and removal of litter on the A27, through some form of a Sussex 'Litter Forum'.

The outcome of the meeting was to take immediate steps to address the challenges on the sections of the A27 where littering is a problem, but also ensure that this is sustained. This was in addition to looking at ways to increase communications to local residents so you and others in the area know what is happening and when.

Highways England also offered, as part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign, to run a one-off trial of their Customer Targeted maintenance programme on the A27 between Hollingbury and Shoreham. I have been informed that this has now been completed and Brighton and Hove supported this work by providing a sweeper and disposing of the collected litter. I also understand that the A27 from Beddingham to Southerham has recently been cleaned. Ultimately, the aim is to demonstrate an improvement on the removal of litter on the A27 and we will continue to be kept updated by Highways England of developments.

Since the meeting, I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight that we have published the next Road Investment Strategy (RIS2). This includes a litter performance indicator that Highways England will be required to report on the percentage of the SRN covered by Highways England's Asset Delivery contracts where litter is graded at B or above under the Litter Code of Practice. Highways England's performance on this will be reported to the Office of Road and Rail and Highways England will publish the data annually. This will ensure that there is an increased level of transparency for road users. The document can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/road-investment-strategy-2-ris2-2020-to-2025>.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Appiah

cc. Wayne Moore, Service Delivery Manager - Highways England