Letter to Highways England 6 December 2020

A27 Litter and wildflowers - what is Highways England doing?

Dear Wayne,

The following article indicates that Highways England is intending to encourage the proliferation of wildflowers along the nation's roadsides and we are wondering what plans you have to improve the disgusting state of the A27 national trunk road here in Sussex.

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/01/wildflower-meadows-to-line-all-major-new-uk-roads-in-boost-for-biodiversity-aoe](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fenvironment%2F2020%2Fdec%2F01%2Fwildflower-meadows-to-line-all-major-new-uk-roads-in-boost-for-biodiversity-aoe&data=04%7C01%7Ckia.trainor%40cpresussex.org.uk%7Cff07945021da456170a008d89a0f984d%7Cd74c348d9e7749f0b7671b156927b6bc%7C0%7C0%7C637428739063916180%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Ij%2Fjjy9QAwoaCWEiXYdhLCp%2BVfqQGi8U5lXNUcz%2BZvo%3D&reserved=0)

As you know, your contractors continuously shred litter whilst undertaking vegetation cutting (photo attached).  It is clear that coordination between Highways England and Local Authorities does not work sufficiently well to provide us with litter free roadsides, resulting in an unsightly mess for residents and visitors alike and untold environmental damage to the water courses and drainage channels.

Could you please advise what steps you have taken to assume responsibility for litter clearance, given that Andrew Appiah at the DfT has indicated that it is for Highways England to request this?  Imagine how much better it will be when one organisation, i.e. Highways England, has responsibility for all aspects of trunk road maintenance in order that a streamlined service can be implemented, allowing litter to be cleared alongside road closures and planned vegetation cutting.

Some positive news on this front would be most welcome given that it is over 10 years now since consultants suggested responsibility for litter removal on the nation's trunk roads should be transferred to yourselves (leaving local authorities with the task of clearing local roads).

Kind regards

Janet Prendiville

Co-Chair A27 Clean Up Campaign