

My first reaction on reading that the Baddow by-pass may be widened was to think that this was a spoof or a scare story. It just seemed so ridiculous that this might be done as part of a Park and Ride scheme. The point of Park and Ride is to reduce traffic into town centres and so to reduce the need for more roads. If this scheme will work only if a new road is built for it, it has failed before it has started.

Many other roads around Chelmsford are badly overloaded, but instead of improving them our councils plan to spend money on one of the few roads which is adequate for its purpose. But then it seems that they are considering this because the government will pay for it. Well, we the public still pay for it, but from general taxes rather than through Council Tax.

The problem with the Baddow by-pass is not the road itself but the junction it leads into. You can't solve a bottleneck problem by widening the bottle which feeds into it. If there is money to be spent on road schemes in connection with this Park and Ride, it should be spent instead on improving the capacity of the Army and Navy junction. Perhaps the new flyover promised for ten years from now can be brought forward. And meanwhile they should be able to keep the queues down by switching the traffic lights back on.

Peter Kirk, Great Baddow

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