

Bypass congestion to be 'negligible'

EXTRA traffic congestion in Coulsdon caused by the installation of a new roundabout as part of the bypass works will be negligible, transport bosses are claiming.

Their confident assessment comes after drivers began complaining about delays they are experiencing on the Brighton Road since the roundabout was put in at its junction with Marlpit Lane.

John Lynch, who works at Jane's Information Group, on Brighton Road, claims traffic congestion has never been so bad.

He said: "It's horrific. Journeys which used to take only 10 minutes are taking 45."

"They are making a complete pig's ear out of it."

"We can't get out of our compa-

ny's car park.

"I have been working here for six years and have never seen traffic like this."

"I think they have under-estimated the impact of the roundabout."

But that view is not shared by David Rothberg, chairman of Coulsdon West Residents' Association, who said residents accepted that traffic problems would result as building progressed.

These would be outweighed in the long run by removal of vehicles from the town centre when the road is completed.

He said there had been no complaints about the roundabout at the association's annual general meeting last week.

Mr Rothberg said: "A lot of people

are quite pleased with the roundabout. It is not so dangerous now for cars going in and out of Marlpit Lane."

A spokesman for Transport for London (TfL), which is responsible for building the bypass, said: "We have put new traffic management in place but it should be remembered that traffic through the centre of Coulsdon was nose-to-tail even out of peak hours and we will be taking 80 per cent of traffic away from the town. This bypass is absolutely necessary."

She added: "The effect of this new traffic management is negligible given the heavy volume of traffic on this road at any given time."

The new road is expected to be completed in 2006.

Spoil will be dumped on farm land

DUMPING 250,000 tonnes of chalk and soil on farmland is the "greenest" way of getting rid of spoil from the construction of the Coulsdon bypass, transport bosses say.

The alternative would be 25,000 lorries going into and out of the site on Brighton Road, adding to traffic congestion on the already busy A23, Transport for London (TfL) claims.

But the proposals are worrying residents in Hollymeak Road whose

cottages back on to the farmland and say they will suffer months of disturbance from lorries using the site.

A spokesman for TfL said: "The idea is that the spoil will be spread over the whole of the land and when the work is finished the site will be landscaped. We expect that when the dumping is completed the height of the land will have risen by up to a metre."

She said TfL believed that the tem-

porary disruption to the landscape and its eventual restoration was more environmentally friendly than having so many extra lorry movements.

Resident Alan Theobald said: "One of the great things about living here is the view from the gardens. We are going to lose that and we are bound to suffer considerable disturbance from the lorries dumping on to the land."