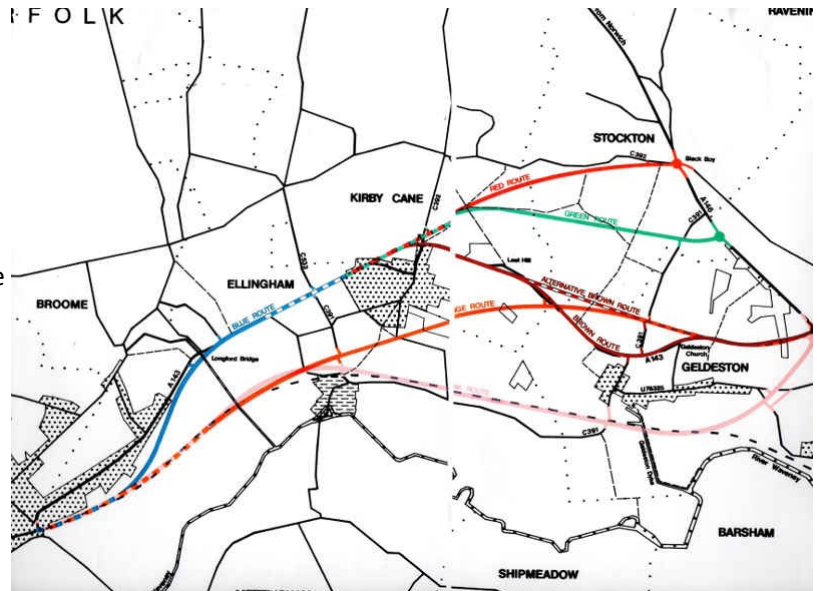


Kirby Cane and Ellingham bypass

Prior to 1989 the A143 used to run through the midst of the villages along Yarmouth Road. It was only just wide enough for goods vehicles to pass each other. The heavy traffic (4000 vehicles on a typical day in the 80's) had to negotiate sharp 90 degree turns, first near the Bird in Hand (now the Olive Tree) and Memorial Hall, then again at Church Lane to head towards Leet Hill. The narrow, windy, road was dangerous and there had been a fatality at Geldeston.

In 1982 six routes were submitted for public consultation, resulting in selection of the Green Route (see map).

Construction started on the 24th June 1988. It involved demolishing a grade 2 listed building, Elva House, and the old Swan Public House (long since closed). The chosen route cut across farm land to join the A146 where a new roundabout was built.



Nine months later (two months ahead of schedule) at a cost of £2 million, Breheny, the contractors, completed the new 3.1km long, 7.3m wide road.

The opening ceremony was on the 12th April 1989. Guest of honour was the oldest resident in the parish, William Baldrey and the official opening was by J.A. Alston CBE, Chairman of Norfolk County Council.



Although the traffic past the Memorial Hall and Bird in Hand was now vastly lighter, there still remained a major problem where the road narrowed to a single lane at Broome Beck. Villager and travellers had to wait until 2002 for a solution, when the Broome - Ellingham bypass was constructed.