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West Sussex Local Access Forum



Planning Department
Arun Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
BN17 5LF

28 July 2017

Sent by email to: planning@arun.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application A/44/17/OUT at Land to West of Brook Lane and South of A259 Angmering BN16 3JL

I am responding to the above consultations on behalf of West Sussex Local Access Forum (WSLAF).

WSLAF is an independent advisory body, established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to give access advice to local authorities, statutory organisations and non-government organisations. In giving that advice the Forum's main objective is to ensure the existing network of public rights of way (PROW), as well as the wider access network, is protected and where possible enhanced. The Forum has a balanced membership of knowledgeable and experienced users (walkers, cyclists, horse riders and carriage drivers), landowners and other interests (including conservation, disabled access, landscape). For further information about the Forum, please visit www.wslaf.org.

The above outline planning application for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a mixed use development including residential units, a care home and ancillary facilities including a railway crossing, was discussed at the recent Forum meeting.

The application includes a proposal to replace an existing at-grade railway level crossing with a footbridge. The new bridge will serve the care home, residential and commercial properties proposed for the new site in addition to other premises proposed north of the railway line and the many existing mixed property types south of the railway line. In providing for walkers it was noted that cyclists would be accommodated by provision of a channel up each stair flight.

Members raised concerns about any proposal for a stepped bridge as they consider that any new crossing should benefit as many potential users as possible, including those with pushchairs or with impaired mobility. The Forum therefore requests that the design of the new footbridge incorporates ramped approaches (to comply with the Equalities Act) and is of adequate width to provide safe and easy access for all users. Members also note that existing PROW cross the site both north-south and east-west.

Improvements to these paths would maximise the benefit of the crossing and would improve access.

This letter constitutes formal advice from the West Sussex Local Access Forum. Arun District Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this Local Access Forum in carrying out its functions.

Thank you for considering WSLAF's comments. Members look forward to being updated on progress on this matter, and would welcome being consulted in the future on any similar matters that may impact on access.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Noble', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jane Noble, Forum Officer
West Sussex Local Access Forum

Copy for information to: All WSLAF members
Jon Perks, Principal Rights of Way Officer