

Jane Noble, Forum Officer
West Sussex Local Access Forum
First Floor, Northleigh
Tower Street, Chichester
West Sussex PO19 1RH
(03302) 226691
wslaf@westsussex.gov.uk

www.wslaf.org

West Sussex Local Access Forum



Sent by email to:
Strategic.plannng@horsham.gov.uk

April 2018

Dear

Re: Heath Common Design Statement

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

West Sussex Local Access Forum (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 (prows), 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 Forum has read the Design Statement with interest, and in line with our main objective to ensure the existing network of prows is protected, Members would like to place on record their support for this document.

All housing developments, whether large or small, bring an increase in traffic on local roads and lanes used by walkers, cyclists and equestrians as links in the prow network, and it is certainly true that this is already causing problems in the county. It is very important that the safety of these users is taken into account when considering planning applications.

The bridleways and footpaths in this area are strategically important safe routes for non-motorised users (NMUs). They are very well used, and WSLAF believes their protection and the retention of their character is important. We would not wish to see traffic increase on these lanes, so we welcome the aims and objectives of the Design Statement, and support the adoption of the document as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) by Horsham District Council.

Indeed, the Forum is aware of frequent requests for a safe NMu crossing of the A283, a road that has become very difficult to cross (especially for equestrians), to enable access from Georges Lane (BW 2623) and Hampers Lane (BW 2627), to safe routes (prow) to the south. This request has recently been submitted as a suggestion for WSCC Local Transport Investment Programme funding.

This letter constitutes formal advice from the West Sussex Local Access Forum. Horsham 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 would welcome being kept informed of future progress regarding this document.

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