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# West Sussex Local Access Forum



14 February 2018

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

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Arun Local Plan (2011-2031) – Consultation on Main Modifications**

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 (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](http://www.wslaf.org).

The Local Plan Main Modification consultation was discussed at a recent meeting of the Forum, and whilst WSLAF Members understand that the consultation is concerned with modifications to the original Draft Plan, concerns were raised that not sufficient emphasis is placed on the need to ensure that strategic developments are planned to improve and enhance PRoW and access networks within the new developments themselves for all Non-Motorised Users (NMUs).

In addition concerns were also raised on the lack of bridleway provision on the Coastal Plain with the consequent necessity for NMUs to use increasingly busy and dangerous roads to link the access network.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraph 75, states "*Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks*".

The West Sussex Transport Plan 2011-2016 recognises the inadequate provision and disjointed nature of the pedestrian and cycling facilities and that the disjointed nature of the link between the PRoW network and the South Downs National Park.

Policy T DM1 requires new development to contribute to joined up access networks, including where appropriate for horse riders, both within the development and to the wider network. Everyone is aware that at present there is a lack of a wider multi-use network on the Coastal Plain, however, the opportunities presented by new development to start creating this should not be missed.

It is important that all enhancements and improvements to the access networks are made suitable for all NMUs (walkers, cyclists and equestrians) to maximise use and comply with the policies within the Plan.

**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 request that they continue to be updated on progress on the Application, 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