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West Sussex Local Access Forum



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Sent by email to: planningpolicy@chichester.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Site Allocation Preferred Approach – Chichester District Council

West Sussex Local Access Forum (WSLAF) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the four documents that go together to provide the evidence for Chichester District Council's assessment and selection of the site allocations for residential and employment provision contained within your Site Allocation Preferred Approach Development Plan Document.

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.

This letter constitutes formal advice from the West Sussex Local Access Forum. Chichester 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.

The documents have been reviewed and the methodology in selecting the preferred sites looks robust and transparent. The sites that are generally most sustainable tend to be those closely located to the existing built up area, either using internal brownfield sites, or edge of settlement greenfield sites.

The sites that remain within the Site Allocation Document therefore contain sites predominantly located within the urban settlement areas, often on brownfield sites. The larger sites that have been identified for residential or employment uses generally have good access to the urban footway and cycleway networks. WSLAF would like, wherever possible, for the developers to look to improve the connectivity between the urban footways and cycleways and the wider PRow network. A number of the sites are close

to either the A27 or the railway line. These create a barrier to movement and this should be considered when improvements to the A27 are being considered.

There are a few sites that are attached to rural villages where the settlement boundary has been redrafted. These do not always enjoy the extensive footway network that is found in urban areas and therefore it is sometimes more difficult to connect into the wider PRow network. When developing these sites an awareness needs to be taken of the existing PRow network so that the new occupants can enjoy these facilities. An example is at Hunston where there is an excellent footpath that runs from Central Chichester through to the Marina, part of which is also a cycle path. WSLAF would want the developer to ensure that every effort is taken to ensure that the development links into this wider network and that is a general request.

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