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West Sussex Local Access Forum



Our reference: Consultation - Horsted Keynes 20mph Speed Limit

Parish Clerk
Horsted Keynes Parish Council

8th June 2026

Dear Parish Clerk,

Speed Limit Consultation

I am responding to your letter dated 26 February 2026 concerning the above 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 (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.

WSLAF generally support applications to reduce speed limits where they would have a positive impact on non-motorised road users making it safer for people to access the PRoW network which is a key objective for the Forum.

Vehicles travelling at 30mph can still appear fast for walkers, cyclists and horse riders making them feel unsafe and creating a barrier to them accessing the countryside. Lowering the speed limit to 20mph can help to give non-motorised road users more confidence and remove this barrier.

Horsted Keynes is a good example of where a speed reduction within the built-up area of the village could significantly improve access to the PRoW network, not just for the residents of the parish but also for the wider public who visit the village to enjoy the extensive network of footpaths and bridleways within the surrounding countryside. As can be seen from the attached iMap extract there are several PRoWs which could potentially be positively impacted by the proposed reduction in speed limit, including the Sussex Border Path long distance trail.



Several of the roads within the built-up area of the village are in effect "shared surfaces" with no designated pavement for pedestrians. However, they have not been constructed in the way that a modern "shared surface" would be designed today, as they are simply tarmac roads with no traffic calming. They are actually "historic route ways" that have become roads which walkers, cyclists and horse riders are forced to share with motorised vehicles.

The village is surrounded by countryside in the heart of the High Weald National Landscape close to the Ashdown Forest and, as such, it is very popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders. There are several private and commercial equestrian establishments in and around the village.

Church Lane leads to the local Primary school with over 100 pupils and the school's policy is to strongly encourage parents and guardians to walk their children to and from school. There are no pavements along this road which the Sussex Border Path runs along and, as a designated Bridleway, it is regularly used by equestrians. Footpaths 5HK, 7HK and 8HK are accessed from, or exit onto, this road. These paths are very popular with dog walkers as they form part of a short circular route from the village.

Sugar Lane/Lewes Road/Treemans Road is another "shared surface" road which leads to the Tremains Riding Stables and is regularly used by equestrians. Footpaths 14HK and 20HK are accessed from, or exit onto, this road. These paths are also very popular with walkers who have to negotiate sections of this road to form a route connecting the paths within the PRow network.

Hamsland is a road constructed along the route of PRow 18HK. It is part of a former Council Estate and, as such, there is a relatively high proportion of young families, vulnerable and elderly residents living in this part of the village. A further 30 homes are currently under construction in this area and the only access for this new development will be along Hamsland, adding to what is already a relatively busy part of the village.

Footpaths 8_1HK, 9HK and 10HK are accessed from, or exit onto, The Green which is a road that runs through the Village Green. This is the heart of the village where there is a village shop, two vibrant pubs and a village hall, which also accommodates the post office and pre-school. Various village events and activities take place on the Village Green each year. There is inevitably a lot of pedestrian activity in this area but this is also one of the busiest roads running through the village. Lowering the speed limit from 30 to 20mph would help to make the area feel calmer, creating a more relaxed atmosphere and safer space.

A planning application to construct a further 25 houses on the Old Police House Field has been recommended for approval and this site is immediately adjacent to footpath 9HK. Vehicular access to this new development will be via Birchgrove Road, which is a continuation of The Green.

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In view of the above WSLAF support the proposal to reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph within the built-up area of the village of Horsted Keynes.

This letter constitutes formal advice from the West Sussex Local Access Forum. [Click here and type organisation] 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 be 'S. Alexander', written over a horizontal line.

Steve Alexander, Forum Officer

Copy for information to:

All WS LAF members

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