

By email

To:

Hebe Smith
Planning Officer
Arun District Council

16th March 2026

Ref: AB/1/26/PL Letter in support of the installation of a proposed Screaming Swift sculpture for Arundel

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter supports a planning application submitted by Arundel Town Council for the installation of a bespoke Screaming Swift sculpture, by local artist Simon Groves, on the large verge between Torton Hill Road and Ford Road in Arundel. As co-chair of Greening Arundel, I would like to provide additional information about the background and context of the application, in order to demonstrate that it both symbolises and reinforces a huge community-based effort to "Bring Back Our Birds (B-BOB)" and that its proposed site will not have a negative impact on road safety or visual amenity.

Greening Arundel is an alliance of 15 local organisations focussed on nature recovery. It includes all of Arundel's "greening" community groups, as well as the local Chamber of Commerce, Arundel Community Partnership, the South Downs National Park and three levels of government. Arun District Council is represented on the group by Councillor Stephen McAuliffe and by James Jones-McFarland, Parks and Green Spaces. The network was formed three years ago and since then has delivered over 20 integrated initiatives in keeping with a four-year strategy endorsed by the Town Council.

One of those initiatives is B-BOB, which was launched in October 2023 at a meeting in Fauna Taproom, at which there was standing room only (over 60 attendees). A follow-up meeting 18 months later attracted close to 80 attendees. One hundred locals signed up to have nests for Swifts, Swallows and/or House Martins installed on their homes and businesses. They also contributed over £2,000 to the cost (https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/greenteam-arundel?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL) In addition, a House Martin Tower has been erected in the Community Allotment and a second Tower is soon to be erected near Mill Road. There are early encouraging signs that the initiative is making a positive impact on the ecology of the town. The sculpture would represent the hope and the determination of Arundel residents to reverse the decline in these birds that are so closely linked to the identity of the town.

Simon Groves is a local chainsaw artist, whose nature-based work is frequently commissioned by Arun District Council. In the last year, two of his benches have been installed at Arundel train station to general acclaim. The benches were dedicated by the Duke of Norfolk and Mayor of Arundel during a Big Green Welcome to Arundel event at the station last June. Harriet Coombs represented Arun District Council at that event. Simon is keenly aware of health and safety issues and has prepared a detailed Method and Risk Assessment for the installation, having studied plans of the area supplied by Steve Hill of West Sussex County Council.

The sculpture will be positioned on the Torton Hill side of the large verge, therefore not in the direct line of sight of drivers entering or leaving the roundabout at Ford Road. The sculpture, from this direction, will also have the benefit of the backdrop of the existing well-established group of trees that occupy the roundabout and will unobtrusively blend into that backdrop. From the Chichester Road side, the sculpture will be at 45° to the primary line of sight and again be inconspicuous. At 4.5 meters high, the Swifts will be above eye level for drivers in any case. The lone soldier sculpture sited on a plinth at the Causeway roundabout is of a similar height and has not caused any issues for drivers using the Arundel Bypass. This is the case for several other remembrance-focussed statutes and advertisement hoardings in the District.

I note the positive responses from statutory consultees on environmental and roads matters (South Downs National Park and the West Sussex County Council Highways Authority).

By email

The Swifts will be mounted on a single shaft, which cannot (easily) be climbed and a safety notice will be installed next to it. A war memorial sculpture was erected on the A27 side of the same verge some years ago has not been the subject of vandalism, nor have either of the Simon Groves benches at the train station. We are therefore hopeful that the same will be the case for the Screaming Swift sculpture.

My fellow Greening Arundel colleagues and I believe that the Screaming Swift sculpture will both recognise local nature recovery work and provide inspiration to go further. We are confident that it will be an asset to the town.

On the basis of the following, there is a strong planning case to approve the application:

- there is no detrimental impact arising from the sculpture either in terms of road safety or visual amenity;
- the proposal is compliant with planning matters;
- the sculpture embodies one of the Council's own objectives for Arundel in paragraph 4.15 of the Arun Local Plan (adopted in 2018), which states that "Arundel will enhance and strengthen its unique special character as a small historic market town";
- the proposal also accords with the Arun Local Plan's Green Infrastructure policies. Green infrastructure is defined in paragraph 7.3.5 as "A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities." The sculpture offers one such example of a "quality of life benefit";
- and its wide community support.

Yours faithfully,



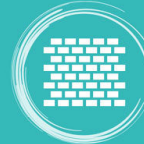
Ms. Katrina Murray
Co-Chair Greening Arundel

PL- Rep

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Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
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 Improving the wellbeing of Arun	 Delivering the right homes in the right places	 Supporting our environment to support us	 Fulfilling Arun's economic potential	 Our core foundations	 
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From: Breezie Allwright <Breezie.Allwright@arun.gov.uk>

Sent: 16 March 2026 09:19

To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>

Subject: Fw: Ref: AB/1/26/PL Letter supporting the installation of a proposed Swift sculpture for Arundel

Rep AB/1/26/PL

Breezie Allwright

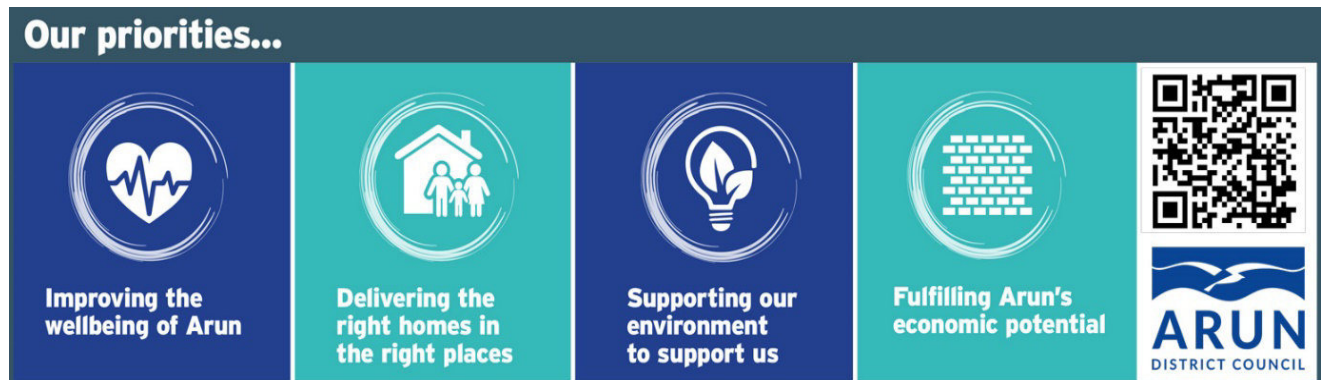
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Please note my working days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

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<https://www1.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-finder>



From: Green Team Arundel [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 March 2026 12:46
To: Hebe Smith <Hebe.Smith@arun.gov.uk>; Planning <Planning@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: Ref: AB/1/26/PL Letter supporting the installation of a proposed Swift sculpture for Arundel

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Dear Hebe - please find an attached letter of support for a proposed Swift sculpture to be installed on the large verge between Ford Road and Torton Hill Road, Arundel. Please do not hesitate to get back to me, if you have any questions.
Many thanks,
Katrina