



Arun District Bridleways Group

Please reply to:
Julie Robinson
Bilsham Manor
Bilsham Lane
Yapton
West Sussex
BN18 0JX

Raymond Cole – Planning Dept
Arun District Council
Arun Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex

18 March 2020

Dear Mr Cole

Re: Ford Airfield Strategic Development Site – F/4/20/OUT

Please register this submission as an objection to the current proposals for this site.

Firstly, there is no detail in relation to proposals for the old Ford to Hunston barge section of the Portsmouth & Arundel Canal route through the site which we, along with representatives of other vulnerable road user groups, would like to see re-purposed as a multi-user greenway, providing a safe off road east/west communication and leisure route along the coastal plain, enabling such users to avoid the increasingly busy coastal plain roads. The opportunity should not be lost to secure as much of the canal route as possible, not just the existing footpath, and agreement for upgrade to at least bridleway status from the landowner/developers.

Continued....

This large site should also be providing a north/south bridleway in line with the West Sussex Transport, Arun District Local Plan and West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan policies, or where highlighted as deficiencies in the current local provision as follows:

Arun District Local Plan

Transport para. 15.1.1.

"The Public Right of Way (PROW) network linking the South Downs National Park with the coast is also disjointed and deficient in bridleway access ..."

Cycling and Walking para. 15.2.5

Arun Leisure Strategy 2013 one of the strategic priorities of the strategy is "to make the District exceptionally good for cycling and other activities that are best off road like horse riding, running and cycling"

Para 15.2.8

"As well as identifying routes along the coast, it is important to develop clear routes between the coast and the South Downs National Park..."

West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan 2018-2028

Page 6 "... access is not evenly distributed across the county the coastal plain has virtually no suitable access for horses".

Page 7 "The paths on the coastal plain are mainly footpaths so there are very limited opportunities for users other than walkers. Being highly populated the roads are busy and, despite the flat terrain, off-road cycling or horse riding opportunities are very limited".

Enhanced local community access for local cyclists and horse riders at both Ford, Climping and Yapton, with possibilities for being able to make circular routes or use the path as part of a commuter route, could also be achieved by the upgrade of the airfield perimeter Footpath 175 to bridleway with provision of a link to Horsemere Green Lane.

Overall, there needs to be much more consideration within this large site to the existing policies within the Local Plan and elsewhere as outlined. Green infrastructure which can dual purpose as combined leisure and commuter routes is required in order to both retain wildlife and provide enhanced access to the wider countryside for all vulnerable road users on a non-discriminatory basis ie. provision of bridleways not just walk and cycle routes. It is important to consider that the new houses to be provided will undoubtedly contain those who wish to ride as well as to walk and to cycle and such sites should not only cater for those residents but for the needs of the wider community it sits within.

Yours sincerely

Julie Robinson
Chair – Arun District Bridleways Group