



Arun District Bridleways Group

Please reply to:
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D Eastham Esq
Arun District Council
Planning Department
Arun Civic Centre
Littlehampton
West Sussex

11 March 2019

Dear Mr Eastham

Re: Site Y/19/20/RES - South of Ford Lane and North of Church Lane, Yapton

I wish to register an objection to this site layout, and its contribution to enhancing the existing public rights of way network as currently proposed.

Please note that **FP 358 on the eastern boundary forms part of a scored registered equestrian route known as E1 on the West Sussex County Council Infrastructure Projects List (LTIP)**. This is for a bridleway going north towards Walberton and Binsted, where access may be gained to the South Downs National Park. Bridleway routes are, as I am sure you are aware, open to walkers, cyclists, horse riders and the disabled and therefore provide opportunities for both local communications, sustainable travel and leisure on a non-discriminatory basis.

This route is in line with Arun District Council Local Plan under 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 and requires surface enhancements". This policy reflects West Sussex County Council's own Transport policy.

Para. 15.2.8 says "As well as identifying routes along the coast, it is important to develop clear routes between the coast and the South Downs National Park. Arun's Green Infrastructure Study has identified that there are opportunities to create and improve such routes".

This route is also in line with Arun District policy T DM1 – the first paragraph and particularly bullet point d. "Contribute towards the provision of a joined up cycle network and Public Rights of Way network, taking into account the aspirational cycle network, which provides convenient, accessible, safe, comfortable and attractive routes for pedestrians and cyclists and, where appropriate, **horse riders**, both within the development and in the form of links between the development..."

The West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan 2018-2028 says at p. 6 "... access is not evenly distributed across the county ... the coastal plain has virtually no suitable access for horses". At p. 7 it says "The paths on the coastal plain are mostly 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". It also says in the final paragraph on p. 13 in regard to new schemes that they aim to be "as inclusive as possible, often the aim will be to achieve at least bridleway status".

It is essential to the registered scheme E1 as above, therefore, that the section of FP 358 along the western boundary of this scheme is upgraded to bridleway status and not, as now, shown apparently continuing to be only a footpath. As it does run along the boundary of the site, there would appear to be little reason for objection to it being upgraded to bridleway status.

I would also point out that currently there is a very unsatisfactory situation where three footpaths, off Church Lane namely 357, 358 and 359 have all been pushed into the same short narrow unsurfaced passageway between a garden fence and an open ditch. This creates the situation for much of the year whereby users have a narrow, muddy and very slippery path to try to negotiate. The land along which this stretch runs is land which is unregistered at the Land Registry. Therefore, may I suggest, that as an overall improvement for Yapton residents **and** to the delivery of scheme E1, that the developers be requested to culvert the ditch to enable this short stretch of pathway to be widened and then to surface the whole appropriately for year round multi-use. Should it be decided that it would not be feasible to deliver the required width, then may I suggest that an alternative access off Church Lane through the same landowner's land be requested for E1 instead (land which I believe was originally intended to be included within the site area).

It should be perfectly possible for this site to deliver this contribution to the registered infrastructure project E1 by the dedication of FP 358 as a public bridleway and to deliver it between two existing highways of a higher status ie. from Church Lane to Ford Lane.

As part of support for the scheme that E1 would provide, may I also cite the very many responses to the questionnaire completed by residents for the revision of the Walberton

Neighbourhood Plan currently underway mentioning the desire for a safe route to Yapton (there being no pavement along the busy and dangerous Yapton Lane).

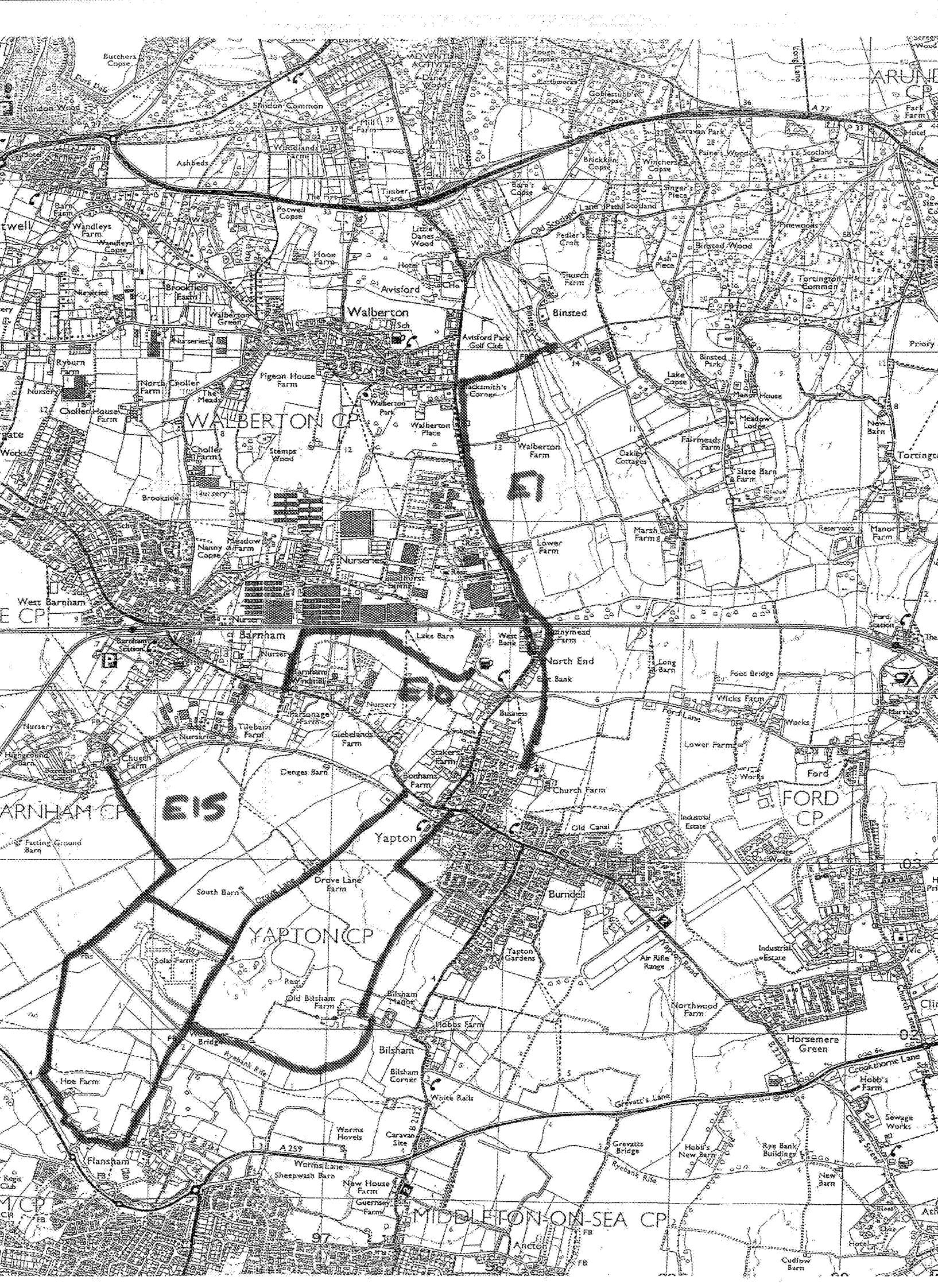
Therefore it is essential that this opportunity to deliver the section of E1 which passes through this site is not overlooked, especially as Church Lane and Church Road provide quieter and safer roads for cyclists and equestrians to negotiate than the increasingly dangerous and congested North End Road. It also makes sense for the route of FP 358 to be upgraded when it has been decided that the preferred location for a new secondary school is off Ford Lane just to the east.

I apologise if the County Council has not appraised you of this scheme, but unfortunately as is so the case different Departments do not liaise or even sometimes respond due to staff shortages/austerity etc.

May I ask that you please ensure this improvement is made and incorporated into this scheme. I attach a plan showing the registered scheme E1 and also the County Council's list of equestrian schemes registered on the LTIP with their scoring.

Yours sincerely

Julie Robinson (Mrs)
Chair – Arun District Bridleways Group



Description and scheme number	LTIP Score
E2 Linear and circular BW route, linking Hunston, Chichester, North Mundham and Runcton. Part of Selsey Greenway. FPs 190 & 196	22
E3 Create direct crossing of A283 at Washington for all NMUs, to link BWs 2623, 2697 and provide north/south route between West Chilt, Ashington, Washington. Provide BW link along wide verge, or "behind	15
E8 Upgrade FP130 to BW from B2166 Lower Bognor Road to Pagham Road, to provide safe off-road link from Morrells Farm to BW129. Also upgrading FP 134 and FP135 to connect to North Bersted.	14
E1 BW link route (mainly off-road) between Yapton, Walberton, Binsted (and poss. Arundel). FPs 358,356, 350. Scope for RfI designated funds?	10
E4 BW link to Poling Corner from Crossbush Lane to Blakehurst Lane alongside A27. FP2189, FP2217. A27 = Highways England. Also surface improvement of BW2189_1	10
E7 Upgrade FP 1470 from Downs Link to Lyons Road to BW status	10
E15 Create new network of multi-use routes linking Barnham, Flansham, Yapton and Bilsham for all NMUs, using upgrade of existing FPs to BW and new sections of BW. Scope for some of this to be delivered by	10
E11 Create new link BW between BW1475_1 and BW1476 to avoid use of A264. Deliver with E9?	9
E13 Create new "behind the hedge" path between BW1911 and BW2347 to enable direct crossing of A272	9
E9 Upgrade FP1477_1 to BW to provide connection between BWs 1476, 1477 and 1466_1. Deliver with E11?	8
E12 Create headland link between BW1434_1 and BW 1416 to enable direct crossing of A29	8
E5 Creation of BW route on section of old road north of A272 at Iping. Create BW route on section of old road north of A272 at Iping (needs improvement work), to allow direct safer north/south crossing points of A272 to Iping Common (SWT who support this scheme) for all NMUs, especially equestrians (approx 40). Would benefit NMUs from Stedham, Iping, Chithurst, Woolbeding. Combine with E6 E6 Create circular route, and enable alternative crossing of A272, by upgrading FPs 1135,1134, 1144 to BW (link to "old road" (see above)	6
E10 Upgrade FP325 to BW, then create new route going east to link to Maypole Lane, and link to E1 (see	6
E14 Create Link between West Chiltonington Lane and BW2344. New BW route, or upgrade of FP2345 or FP2349	6