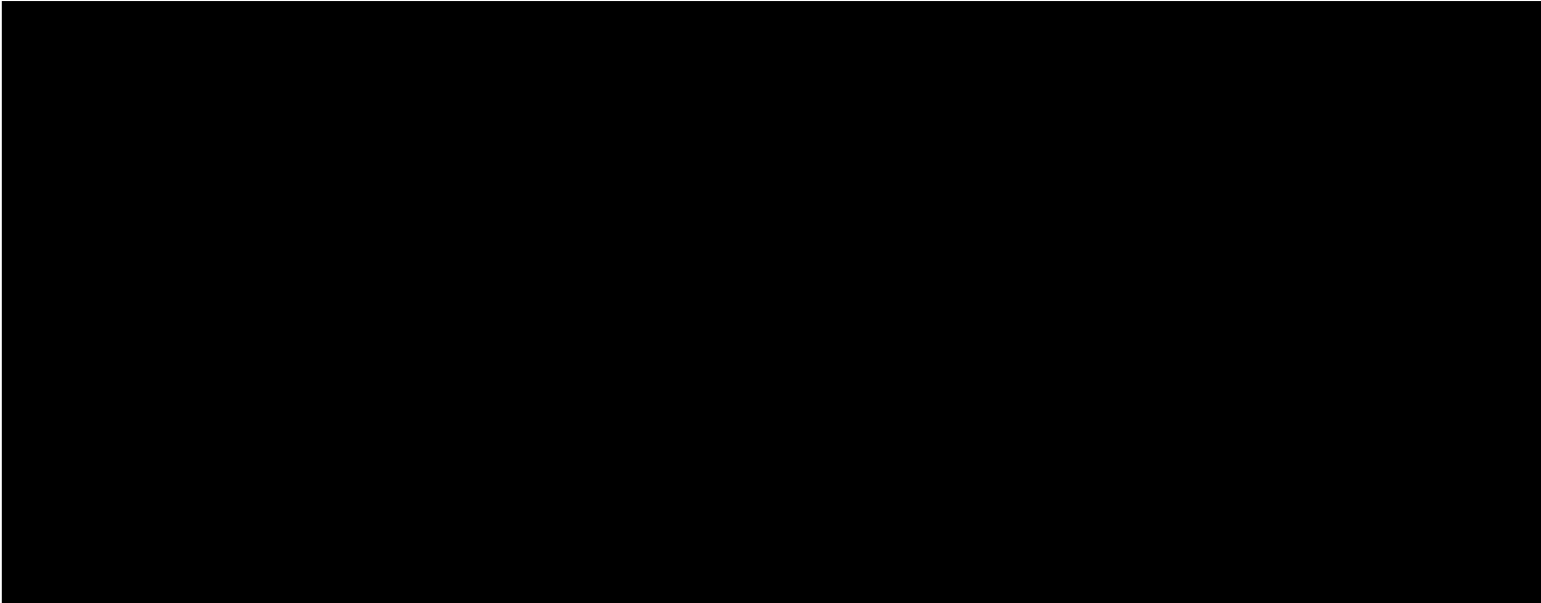




From: Patricia Butcher [mailto:patricia.butcher@west-sussex.gov.uk]
Sent: 10 April 2018 20:13
To: Planning
Subject: Planning Applications Y/91/17/OUT and Y/92/17/OUT

For the Attention of David Easton

Planning Applications Y/91/17/OUT and Y/92/17/OUT
Residential Development off Bilsham Road and Drove Lane, Yapton

Dear Mr Easton

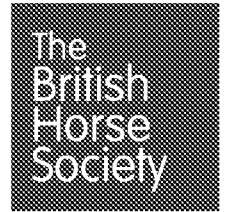
Please find attached comments on the above applications from The British Horse Society. I would be grateful if you could acknowledge safe receipt of this email and attachment.

Yours sincerely
Tricia Butcher
The British Horse Society
County Bridleways & Access Officer (West Sussex)

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

The British Horse Society

Abbey Park,
Stareton,
Kenilworth,
Warwickshire CV8 2XZ



Please reply to: 14 Benjamin Road
Maidenbower
Crawley
West Sussex, RH 10 7QY
Tel: 01293 886446



Sent by email to:



For the attention of David Easton

Dear Mr Easton

The British Horse Society (BHS) is the UK's largest equine charity and equestrian membership organisation and the governing body for recreational riding. Its charitable objects include the promotion of equestrian safety, particularly on roads, and equestrian access to bridleways and other off-road multi-use routes for the public benefit.

**Planning Applications Y/91/17/OUT and Y/92/17/OUT
Residential Development off Bilsham Road and Drove Lane, Yapton.**

The above applications together form Strategic Site SD7, and when combined are seeking approval for a total number of 550 dwellings. If you include other proposed development sites in and around Yapton, the total reaches around 1000 dwellings.

If approved the inevitable increase in traffic on local roads from these developments, will make them unsafe for non-motorised users (NMUs), including the many local horse riders. It is well known, and acknowledged in many polices (including your own), that the Coastal Plain is deficient in bridleways.

Local equestrians have no option other than using the road network daily, as there is no safe off-road access available to them in the area. The equestrian industry contributes to the rural economy, as well as bringing health and well-being benefits, and the safety of participants should be as important as that of other NMUs.

Government acknowledges equestrians as vulnerable road users together with walkers and cyclists, and the West Sussex Transport Plan 2011- 2026 (page 32) states that "equestrians form a significant but vulnerable road user group which we will support and seek to protect."

National Planning Policy Framework (para 75) states that "planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users". Better facilities should be sought for all vulnerable road users, including horse riders, and the planning process can assist in achieving this by helping to provide, at the minimum, a multi-use route

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(bridleway) on the edge of a development, which would enable all users to avoid at least part of a busy road, and could eventually become part of a network of safe off-road routes. New developments in the north of the county are great examples of how this can be done.

Provision of housing should not be the catalyst that endangers one class of vulnerable road user. The application quite rightly contains a number of references to off-road walking and cycling routes, but all NMUs need off-road routes so it is inequitable and poor value to create a safe off-road route which excludes any of them.

In view of the lack of any consideration or provision for the safety of horse riders on the local roads the Society finds it necessary to lodge an objection to the two applications. However, I would be happy to discuss these issues further if required, so please do get in touch if you think that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely
Tricia Butcher
County Access & Bridleways Officer (West Sussex)