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**Countryside  
Access Forum  
for  
West Sussex**

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Our reference: JN/CAFWS1

Mr Keith Weyway  
Strategic Development Officer  
Arun District Council

21<sup>st</sup> October 2008

keith.wheway.arun.gov.uk

Dear Mr Weyway

**Bognor Regis Site 6; North Bersted**

I am responding regarding the above development on behalf of the Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex (CAFWS), **an independent statutory advisory body** set up to give access advice, including to all levels of government. Forum Members are keen to contribute to the planning process to ensure that proposed changes meet the needs of local people and that the chance is taken to improve opportunities for countryside access for present and future users.

Before commenting on the above development, CAFWS would like to emphasise the importance of considering the needs of the three main users of the countryside:

- **Walkers** – the need is to access the countryside, especially using circular routes of various lengths; internal paths need to link up with the wider network of paths and other means of accessing the countryside. Areas for **dog walking** must be accommodated.
- **Cyclists** – using cycle routes and bridleways – an improved network will contribute to sustainable access to work and school
- **Horse riders** – riding is becoming a more and more important recreational activity around the urban fringe and contributes to the local economy

In addition, attention must be given to recreational access for all types of **mobility impaired users**, and Government initiatives highlighting the benefits of walking for health.

CAFWS's primary function is to protect and improve opportunities for people to access and enjoy the countryside on foot, by cycle and on horseback. **Arun District Council** 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 Forum in carrying out its functions.

CAFWS is very supportive of the Barnham to Felpham Cycle Route which has partly been completed - however, there is no reference to it in the plans we have seen - can

Arun District Council please confirm it will be properly accommodated in the detailed design?

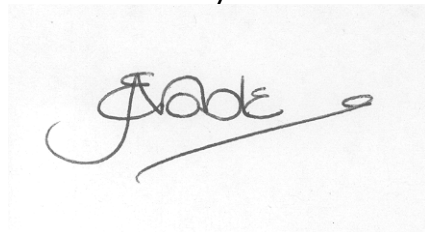
In particular, both the Barnham route and the cycle track which will run alongside the new ring road need to be linked with the developing South Coast Cycle Route, Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity, is leading on this and should be consulted at all stages of planning.

The Barnham route will be of considerable local importance and CAFWS would like to press for grade separation where it crosses the ring road.

South of the ring road, it is essential that the route does not "disappear" into a maze of residential roads: CAFWS would like to see it given an off road route, easily navigated in both directions.

In closing, may I emphasise that the Forum is keen to continue to contribute to the planning process to ensure that new developments deliver the needs of all users. We look forward to future consultation and hope these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Noble". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jane Noble  
Forum Officer  
Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex  
[www.westsussex.gov.uk/cafws](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/cafws)

Copy for information to:

Peter Brown – Chairman, CAFWS

Glynn Jones – Vice-Chairman, CAFWS

Lisa Creaye-Griffin, Group Manager, Rural Operations, WSCC

All members of CAFWS